UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Kenney says $2.5 million a minimum figure

Minister meets with Ukrainian community delegation to discuss internment redress issue

By Marco Levytsky

The $2.5 million that the Conservative government has committed to Ukrainian Canadian Internment redress is a minimum sum and more may be made available, says Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, who met with representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community to discuss this issue in Ottawa, Feb. 16.

"I didn't give a minimum or maximum figure, but I did demonstrate that there would be more than $2.5 million focused on the First World War internment measures," he told Ukrainian News in a telephone interview from Ottawa, Feb. 20.

He noted that he doesn't have a specific amount at this time, but stated that there may be some money left over from the $24 million allocated to the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) and some in the $10 million in the National Historical Recognition Program.

Both programs were announced on June 22, 2006. The CHRP replaces the previous government's Acknowledgement, Commemoration and Education (ACE) Program.

"I met with the groups in good faith and I'm going to look seriously at their information and look forward to continuing the dialogue. They made their case very strongly and persuasively and I'm just new to the portfolio, so I look forward to seeing how we can come to a meeting of the minds if that's at all possible," he said.

However, Kenney dismissed former Finance Minister Ralph Goodale's assertion that an extra $10 million had been promised the Ukrainian Canadian community, but never made it to the budget because the government fell before one could be brought forward.

"I've looked through every government file on this and I see no reference to any $10 million that Mr. Goodale, nor Mr. Chan (former Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Raymond), nor Mr. Martin (former Prime Minister, Paul) wrote down… not even a cocktail napkin — in terms of an additional 10 million dollars. That strikes me as just another Liberal empty pre-election promise," he said.

"They appear to have made similar empty, unfunded and insincere promises to a number of other communities. Out of the 25 million dollar fund that they budgeted, it would appear they made rhetorical promises in the amount of over 60 million dollars."

During the meeting the six-member delegation, which consisted of Andriy Hladyshevsky and Lesia Szwaluk, President and Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko; Paul Grod and Michael Ilnycky, National First Vice President and Calgary Branch President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; and Lubomyr Luciuk and Roman Zakaluzny, Director of Research and Member, Ottawa Office, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association; stated that they are seeking the full $12.5 million to undertake a series of commemorative, research, cultural and educational initiatives to benefit all Canadians.

Also attending was Andrew Antoniuk of the Descendents of Ukrainian Internees Victims Association.

Hladyshevsky told Ukrainian News Feb. 19 that the Ukrainian Canadian community respects the government's position that it is not bound by the previous government's promises "but at the same time our community's position hasn't changed, in the same way that we put it to the Liberals we are putting it to the Conservative government that is basically what our request is ($12.5 million)."

Hladyshevsky said that according to a 1991 PriceWaterhouse report the economic losses of our community amounted to no less than $32.5 to $43.3 million, which could have increased by 25% in terms of 2007 dollars, so, in asking for $12.5 million, the community is not even asking for a dollar for dollar amount.

Another key point the community representatives brought forward is that these funds should be managed by the Ukrainian Canadian community through and endowment to the Taras Shevchenko Foundation, which would report to the government — not administered by the government itself.

"Our point is that since the money was taken from the Ukrainian Canadian community it is extremely symbolic to our people that the money be returned and not that we go cap in hand to civil servant to request money for grants," Hladyshevsky said.

"Our community is not going to capitulate to any sort of government run programs," he added.

Hladyshevsky said that the delegation pointed out to Kenney that community-run programs are more efficient than government-run ones.

They used the example of recent Ukraine observer project where the community sent 500 election observers at a cost of $1 million while the government also sent 500 observers "at a cost of many millions of dollars."

When asked about that issue, Kenney told Ukrainian News "I took note of their point and we had a very good discussion," before explaining he had to cut the interview short because he had just arrived at an event for which he was already late.

However, the minister said he is willing to discuss this issue in a future interview.

Earlier he confirmed that he would be continuing the dialogue with the community at an early date.

"I am committed to getting back to the participants within a month and I know that we certainly intend to act as quickly as we can on these things and to try to bring them to a satisfactory conclusion."

Besides Kenney, members of his ministerial staff and members of the Multiculturalism department were also present.

Hladyshevsky said "it is clear that Kenney understands the breadth of the internment issue" and that "this an opportunity for Mr. Kenney to shine."

He noted that the community representatives made it clear that they were not consulted prior to the announcement of the CHRP or NHRP programs and were never brought in

Cont. on P. 3

Left to Right: Andriy Hladyshevsky, Paul Grod, Jason Kenney, Lubomyr Luciuk, Andrew Antoniuk. Michael Ilnycky, Roman Zakaluzny, Lesia Szwaluk.

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Пинзеник думає, що "українські друзі" Путіна сховались у Кабміні

(Українська правда)—Лідер ПРП Віктор Пинзеник вважає, що ймовірні домовленості щодо передачі української газо-транспортної системи в управління Росії не зменшить ціни на російський газ для України.

"Зменшення ціни газу для України ці домовленості жодним чином не можуть забезпечити", - сказав Пинзеник в ефірі телеканалу "Інтер", коментуючи нещодавню заяву президента Росії Владіміра Путіна про пропозицію "українських друзів" взяти участь у розробках газу в Росії, надаючи Росії право управляти газопроводом України.

"Хто б не видобував газ в Росії – чи за українські гроші, чи російські – на ціну це не впливає, бо в Росії є таке поняття як експортне мито. І його в російський бюджет сплачують всі, незалежно від того, хто вкладає кошти у видобуток", - додав він.

За словами Пинзеника, обмін активів між Україною і Росією на право видобутку газу позбавляє Україну можливості впливати ціною транзиту на ціну газу для України, віддаючи в управління Росії свою газо-транспортну систему.

На його думку, "передача в управління – це безоплатна приватизація".

На запитання, хто міг бути цими "українськими друзями", про яких говорив Путін, Пинзеник зауважив, що господарські питання належать до компетенції Кабінету міністрів.

За його словами, деякі високопосадовці нинішнього уряду вже підтримали таку ідею щодо обміну активів.

"Я не припускаю, що Володимир Путін міг говорити про ініціативи, не маючи для цього вагомих підстав", - сказав Пинзеник.

При цьому він наголосив, що обмін активів у цій ситуації зовсім не є обміном з "якимось вигодами" для України, а, навпаки, позбавляє Україну "навіть тих інструментів впливу на ціну російського газу, які є на сьогодні".

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Прем'єр з українським корінням

Станіслав Лазебник,
Урядовий кур'єр

На передодні Нового року вперше в історії Канади українець очолив (Альбертський, примітка УВ) уряд. 55–річний юрист Ед Стельмах став прем'єром Альберти – однієї з найбільших і найпотужніших за економічним потенціалом провінцій країни Червоного Кленового листу.

Альберта за своєю територією перевищує Україну. Щоправда, населення становить лише 3,2 мільйона осіб. Майже кожен десятий з них має українське походження. Вихідці з України, а передусім їхні нащадки у п'яти поколіннях складають четверту за чисельністю етнічну групу після британців, німців та французів.

Ед Стельмах є онуком емігрантів. Його дід Микола виїхав у 1898 році з рідного села Завічі, що біля Бродів на Львівщині. Дід і баба майбутнього урядовця заснували в преріях ферму, на якій й нині мешкають Ед і Марія Стельмахи. У них четверо дітей, є й внуки. Подружжя плекає українську мову, зберігає традиції та звичаї свого роду, співає в хорі української католицької церкви. Вся родина бере активну участь в культурному житті місцевої української громади, яка завжди підтримує Еда в його політичній кар'єрі.

У грудні минулого року Стельмах був обраний лідером прогресивно–консервативної партії в провінції. Її законодавча асамблея більшістю голосів призначила його главою уряду. Онук і син фермерів має солідний управлінський досвід. З 1997 по 2006 рік він послідовно керував міністерствами сільського господарства, інфраструктури, транспорту, міжнародних та міжурядових відносин. Ще в 1993 році разом зі своїм колегою–депутатом Лаврентієм Дікуром (у 1980–х роках він був мером Едмонтона) Ед створив у провінційному парламенті першу альбертсько–українську групу законодавців і комітет прихильників зв'язків з Україною. Саме Стельмах відповідав за взаємини з Україною і започаткував співробітництво між своєю батьківщиною та Івано–Франківщиною і Львівщиною. З керівниками обласних державних адміністрацій підписано протоколи про наміри щодо співпраці в галузях економіки, культури, освіти, зокрема, обміну досвідом у різних ділянках суспільного життя. Під час перебування в Едмонтоні делегації Львівщини за участю Стельмаха було закладено невеличкий символічний монумент на честь порідненння провінції з нашою західною областю.

Як в Україні пишуть про Прем'єра Стельмаха

ФОТО — ЛЮДМИЛА СУВОРОВА

Ед і Марія Стельмахи

В Едмонтоні вважають, що успіх подальшого співробітництва із згаданими регіонами багато в чому залежить від ініціативності української сторони і має, на думку тамтешніх пресових оглядачів, досить реальні перспективи. Місцева двомовна газета «Українські вісті» відзначила зростання за минуле чотириліття експорту Канади до України на 50 відсотків. Наприкінці минулого року за своїм обсягом він перевищив 100 мільйонів доларів США.

Сьогодні Альберта є головним провідником у Канаді політики вільної торгівлі та вільних іноземних інвестицій, другим у світі експортером і третім виробником природного газу. Її нафтовий експорт дорівнює обсягу продажу цієї сировини таких країн, як Кувейт та Алжир. Сто держав купують в провінції енергетичні технології та різні послуги світового рівня. Таким могутнім господарством керує нині потомок галичан.

З іменем Стельмаха сьогодні в Едмонтоні пов'язують подальший економічний, соціальний, зовнішньоторговельний прогрес цього краю. Провідна газета «Едмонтон джорнел» під заголовком «Стійкий Едді бере владу на свій термін», зокрема, пише: «новий альбертський прем'єр не боїться роботи», «він є людиною слова», «він би нічого не робив такого, чим могли б не пишатися його батьки». У перші тижні свого прем'єрства Стельмах скоротив кількість міністерств з 24 до 18–ти з метою, за його словами, «забезпечення більшої концентрації, дисципліни, кращого планування будучності Альберти». Серед діючих структур – міністерства муніципальних справ і житлового будівництва (очолює його українець Рей Данилюк, у минулому фермер з 30–літнім стажем), зайнятості, імміграції та індустрії, підтримка ветеранів і громад та інші.

При уряді десятий рік працює ще один орган, громадський, – Дорадча рада з альбертсько–українських відносин. Нею керує Рей Данилюк. З її діяльністю я мав можливість ознайомитись в Едмонтоні ще у 2004 році, коли готував книжку про українців Альберти до 100–річчя здобуття цією західною частиною Канади статусу провінції. Рада, проводячи свої засідання раз на два місяці, виробляє для міністерств конкретні пропозиції стосовно розвитку зв'язків з Україною, випускає спеціальний бюлетень. До її складу входять діючі і колишні міністри та депутати, бізнесмени, громадські діячі, науковці – всі люди українського походження, сповнені прагнення налагоджувати обопільну співпрацю з історичною батьківщиною. Торік, наприклад, вони обговорювали питання відрядження до України на парламентські вибори волонтерів–спостерігачів та підсумки їхньої роботи, обміну досвідом в аграрному виробництві з Херсонською областю, освітні, мистецькі та інші контакти з Україною, найважливіші проєкти допомоги нашій державі.

Згадую свої розмови з членами цієї громадської інституції, під час яких вони висловлювали побажання, аби подібні дорадчі ради були створені в регіонах України для здійснення конструктивного багатогалузевого співробітництва з Канадою, де кожен 30–й житель визнає себе українцем.

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Shadursky seeks Conservative nomination in Mississauga South

(UkrNews)—Raya Shadursky, an active member of the Ukrainian Canadian community for over 25 years has finally taken the first step into public service.

Raya has entered the national political scene in applying as a nominee for the Conservative Party of Canada for Mississauga South.

"We need more voices from Canadians of Ukrainian heritage at the national level of government," says Shadursky.

"We need these voices in all parties, but in particular within the Conservative Party of Canada. Over 4 million Canadians can trace their roots to Ukraine. History has proven that we are a people of nation builders in Canada and have contributed and continue to contribute to the very fabric of Canadianism". She observes that "many people that I speak with will tell me that they don't join political parties but will vote Conservative in the federal election. I try to explain to them that, though it is important to do this, it is even more important to make sure a good candidate is selected to run. This can only happen if they join the Party and then come out and vote during the nomination meetings. This is where their vote counts so much".

With respect to issues affecting Canadians of Ukrainian heritage, Raya holds strong her belief that Canada needs a clear legal definition of what constitutes the necessity to strip Canadians of their citizenship. She supports the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' position in this regard.

The Immigration and Citizenship policies are in desperate need of changes; for example our Canadian embassies, in particular in Ukraine,

Raya Shadursky

need to increase their staff and expertise to provide effective assistance for those seeking to emigrate or visit Canada needs immigration to survive and it needs to move quicker into the 21st century in evaluating international credentials.

As a second generation Canadian (daughter of immigrants) she says: "I believe, as Mykhailo Wawryshyn, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation stated so succinctly, 'my Ukrainianism is my Canadianism'."

Currently five nominees are seeking the candidacy but Raya is the only woman.

Currently Shadursky is Manager Organizational Development for So-Use Credit Union, as well as President of the Orchard Heights Home Owners' Association, Board Director and Member of the Quality and Risk Management Committee of St. Demetrius Corporation (Long Term Care and Seniors Residence facilities), and Family Council Chair for the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre. Previously she has held positions as Provincial Liaison, Canada Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP); Executive Director, Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival; National Executive Committee Member, Chair Communications Committee Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Member Organizing Committee and Workshop Moderator, Forum for Central and Eastern European Business Development; Parish Council Board Member, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, National past president; Vice President Ontario; Chair, Organizing Committee 1999 and 2005 Biennial Conventions; Toronto chapter past president and member Past Presidents' Council, Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation; Founding Board Member and Program Designer, Canada Ukraine Management Institute, Council Member, National Council of Ethnic Canadian Business and Professional Associations, Board Member, Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society, Board Member; International Centre for Democracy and State Development of Ukraine, Board Secretary, Canadian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Board Secretary; St. Vladimir Ukrainian Institute; and Ex-Officio Board Member, Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies.

If you live in Mississauga South and will support Raya and/or want additional information, please call her at 416-294-7853 or e-mail at <rayascampaign@hotmail.com>. Her website is currently being developed and will be available at <www.rayascampaign.com>.

Parkdale-High Park NDP nominate Nash

(UkrNews)—Peggy Nash was acclaimed as the federal NDP candidate for Parkdale-High Park in a crowded riding nomination meeting held at Bishop Marocco High School, Feb. 11.

In her acceptance speech, she thanked her supporters for their endorsement of her hard work in the riding, and on behalf of the riding, in Ottawa.

She said she was particularly proud of her draft legislation to reinstate a federal minimum wage and to set it at $10 an hour as part of an anti-poverty strategy to support working families across the country, and for authoring a "Once in a Lifetime" Immigration Bill to support family reunification in Canada.

Bill C-394 will allow any Canadian citizen or landed immigrant to sponsor, once in their lifetime, one family member from outside the family class as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

"Family reunification is key to immigration policy, and this bill is a response to that reality," said Nash. "This is important to my riding of Parkdale – High Park whose large and vibrant immigrant population contributes so much to our riding, our city and our country," she said.

Relatives who are currently not eligible to be sponsored under Canada's current family reunification policies, but could be sponsored under Bill C-394 are: a son or daughter over the age of 22 who is not a dependant; an aunt or uncle; a brother or sister; a niece or nephew and a first cousin.

The bill is supported by a number

Peggy Nash

of Ukrainian Canadian organizations including the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

Recounting her first weeks as an MP during which she forced the resignation of a flawed Conservative integrity commissioner appointee, to her present work pressuring the government for action to reduce greenhouse gases and promote breathable air, she made it clear that she's not afraid to speak out on tough issues, to visit trouble spots in the world such as the Middle East to see what's happening on the ground firsthand, to support the electoral process in fledgling democracies such as Ukraine, or to fight for integrity and accountability in parliament.

"Parkdale-High Park residents want an MP that makes parliament work. More and more voters understand the NDP provides the best hope for government that listens and responds to the needs of working Canadian families," she said.

Martel (Shymko) to seek Liberal nomination in Edmonton Centre

(UkrNews)—Nicole Martel, Liberal candidate for Edmonton East in the 2006 election, has announced her intention to seek the party's nomination in Edmonton Centre

"Edmonton Centre has a long and progressive history of bringing a liberal voice from Edmonton to Ottawa," she says on her website "I plan to return a Liberal voice back to this riding, but I can't do it without your help. If you would like to get involved with the campaign, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you."

The riding was represented by former Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan between 1993 and 2006 when she was defeated by current MP. Conservative Laurie Hawn.

Nicole Martel

Martel, whose maiden name is Shymko, is of Ukrainian origin and in the 2006 election endorsed a Ukrainian community platform with fellow Liberal candidates Andy Hladyshevsky (Edmonton-Strathcona) and Jim Jacuta (Edmonton-Leduc).

Among the points included in the platform were: supporting amendments to the Citizenship Act to eliminate any unfair procedures in the area of deportation and denaturalization; supporting new legislation to STOP Human Trafficking; supporting an enhanced immigration section at the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine; supporting the creation of a Ukrainian Consulate in Edmonton; supporting continued funding of cultural organizations in our community; supporting federal funding to open the proposed new Ukrainian Canadian Archives & Museum of Alberta (UCAMA); supporting the Acknowledgement, Commemoration, and Education (ACE) program of the Ukrainian Canadian Internment operations and supporting efforts to expand new business and trade opportunities with Ukraine.

With her partner (and mother) Ollie Shymko, Nicole co-owns National Drapery and Design. National Drapery has been serving Edmonton and area clients for over 30 years. Employing designers, workroom staff and installers, National Drapery has continued to grow over the years and reach out into the community. For the past four years, National Drapery has been involved with Habitat for Humanity supplying window coverings for local homes.

She obtained a BA from the University of Alberta in 1992 and an MA in Political Science, in 1995.

Martel then took a position with GPC, a government relations firm serving various Edmonton area corporate clients She then moved to the Edmonton Social Planning Council where she wrote a report measuring the quality of life in our city. From there, she spent several years as a Researcher and Policy Analyst with the Government of Alberta before returning to the corporate sector as the Manager of Government Relations for EPCOR.

Kenney

Cont. from P. 1

to provide input.

"I honestly believe that if the political will was there, they could rip up those two previous programs and make a deal with us," he stated.

"It's important that the Ukrainian Canadian community understands that we are in active negotiations that they should be speaking with their MPs about this, raising the issue (saying) 'I hope that you will come to an agreement with out community soon and that you will advise your advisers to continue negotiations with our appointed representatives'," Hladyshevsky added.

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Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Львів, 8 лютого 2007 – Масові скорочення очікуються у представницьких органах влади. Апарат обласних рад, районних і сільських, згідно з постановою Кабміну від 7 лютого цього року, має бути зменшений наполовину. Як таке рішення уряду сприйняли у регіонах, що може зумовити така ситуація?

Нині Львівська облрада нараховує 60 працівників апарату. Керівник має трьох заступників – представників «Нашої України», БЮТ і «Пори». Власне завдяки такій конфігурації вдалось знайти компроміс між політичними силами. А згідно з постановою Кабміну від 7 лютого, апарат має налічувати 27 осіб. Штатним розкладом передбачено одного заступника і скорочення в усіх відділах.

Заступник голови Львівської облради Микола Горинь вважає, що постанова Кабміну порушує Хартію про місцеве самоврядування, яку ратифікував парламент. До слова, у 2003-2005 роках була ухвалена постанова «Про фінансове забезпечення органів місцевого самоврядування», але її не реалізовували. Мінфін не зменшив фінансування представницьких органів влади.

Уряд Януковича цього року почав масову атаку на представницькі органи влади, вважає Микола Горинь: «Говорити, чи це проста економія грошей, чи за цим стоїть політичний підтекст, – важко. Думаю, що одне другого не виключає. Оскільки саме в західній Україні в органах місцевого самоврядування присутня багатопартійність, на Сході домінує одна політична сила, тому можна передбачити дестабілізацію ситуації саме в західних областях».

Апарат облради – це патронажна служба для обслуговування депутатів. Останніх у Львівській облраді налічується 120. Чимало з них не користуються послугами працівників апарату, не довіряючи їхній професійності.

Нашоукраїнець Валерій Калинюк зазначає, що скорочувати апарат не можна. Адже уряд хоче послабити місцеві органи влади, зруйнувати регіональні пріоритети. Водночас, за словами пана Калинюка, апарат облради необхідно реформувати. Зокрема, поліпшити роботу відділів, які працюють з документацією, особливо слід посилити професійність юридичної служби: «Я не можу собі дозволити власного юриста. Тому змушений користуватись послугами юрвідділу, але на більшість питань він не може дати відповідь».

А депутат з фракції «Свобода» Ірина Фаріон вважає, що апарат можна скорочувати лише тоді, коли обранці отримуватимуть депутатську зарплату. Пані Ірина працює з багатьма відділами апарату, але для оформлення заяв чи звернень у суд чи прокуратуру, депутатських запитів змушена наймати фахову людину.

Ірина Фаріон: «Депутатам дуже потрібен штат апарату облради, який би виконував технічну роботу. Я категорично проти скорочення, а, навпаки, його у деяких відділах треба збільшити, щоб допомагав депутатам у їхній роботі».

Міністерство фінансів невдовзі розтлумачить постанову Кабміну про фінансове забезпечення органів місцевого самоврядування. Якщо Мінфін зменшить фінансування, то або ж доведеться скоротити апарат облради наполовину, або ж на стільки зменшити зарплати. Нині в середньому працівники заробляють по 1000-1400 гривень, керівники у 6-9 разів більше.

Постанова Кабміну, за словами експертів, по суті, послабить представницькі органи влади.

Акції протесту в Криму

Одні хочуть землі, а дехто називає Україну окупантом

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

У Симферополі 19 лютого став днем політичних акцій. Цього дня тут пройшли два десятки мітингів, пікетів і навіть було кілька спроб перекрити вулиці. У різних кінцях міста сотні кримчан вимагали землі і кілька десятків осіб – протестували проти передачі півострова Україні у далекому 1954 році.

Автоінспектор з перемінним успіхом намагається регулювати рух на пішохідному переході неподалік Верховної Ради Криму. Тут півсотні репатріантів постійно переходячи вулицю в обидва боки, спробували перекрити рух транспорту. Так вони привертали увагу влади до своїх земельних проблем. Повідомлення про подібні акції надходили з усіх кінців Симферополя. На деяких його околицях це вдалося зробити на 30-40 хвилин, попри протидію з боку правоохоронців.

Загалом 19 лютого у Симферополі правопорядок забезпечували понад 1600 міліціонерів і бійців внутрішніх військ. У центрі міста правоохоронці зустрічалися чи не кожні десять метрів.

Близько тисячі репатріантів також зібралися і під стінами кримського парламенту, але це значно менше заявлених 15 тисяч. Оглядачі пов'язують це із позицією Меджліса кримськотатарського народу, лідер якого Мустафа Джемілєв у п'ятницю закликав співвітчизників не виходити 19 лютого на мітинги і не піддаватися на провокації.

А член Меджлісу Ремзі Ільясов зазначив: "Це відповідальність велика. Ми можемо говорити лише про мирні демонстрації. Але нас інформували, що організатори готові були до силових акцій, до перекриття трас. Ми, природно, сказали, що не погоджуємося із цим".

Водночас інший відомий кримськотатарський політик Надир Бекиров прийшов до Верховної Ради Криму, щоб підтримати учасників акції протесту: "У будь-якому випадку, доти, доки земельна проблема не буде вирішена на користь кримських татар, ескалація лише наростатиме. Тому що зараз питання землі об'єктивно перетворилося на питання майбутнього існування людини та її родини, а також – всього народу".

І хоча акція протесту не набула очікуваної масовості, її організатори заявили, що наступні її етапи пройдуть на Південному узбережжі, зокрема, 28 лютого провести мітинг планують у Ялті.

А проросійські організації 19 лютого відзначали 53-тю річницю приєднання Кримської області до Української РСР. Із цієї нагоди частина проросійських діячів пікетувала Генеральне консульство Російської Федерації в Симферополі, вимагаючи активізації дій з "повернення" півострова Росії, а частина – Представництво Президента України, де називали українців "окупантами" і закликали українське керівництво добровільно відмовитися від Криму: "Окупанти, геть із Криму!".

Під консульством пікетувальники спалили портрети Микити Хрущова і Бориса Єльцина, а біля Представництва – розділ Конституції України, де записано, що Автономна Республіка Крим – невід'ємна частина України. В обох акціях проросійських сил взяли участь до 30 осіб.

Російська мова таки стала регіональною в Донецькій області

(Українська правда)—Апеляційний суд Донецької області 19 лютого повернув російській мові статус регіональної в Донецькому регіоні.

Своїм рішенням суд скасував рішення Ворошиловського райсуду Донецька, яке скасувало рішення облради від 18 травня 2006 року про надання російській мові статусу регіональної на території Донецької області.

Про це повідомляють Українські новини з посиланням на прес-секретаря облради Ірину Таранову.

За її словами, суд прийняв це рішення за скаргою облради, поданої на рішення Ворошиловського райсуду Донецька, прийняте в листопаді 2006 року.

Таким чином, суд визнав законним рішення депутатів Донецької облради про присвоєння російській мові статусу регіональної в Донецькій області.

Як повідомлялося, 18 травня 2006 року Донецька облрада надала російській мові статус регіональної на території Донецької області.

Потім прокуратура Донецької області опротестувала рішення обласної ради про статус російської мови, і в листопаді 2006 року Ворошиловський районний суд Донецька скасував рішення облради, після чого облрада подала скаргу в апеляційний суд.

Верховний суд відкинув скарги Піскуна щодо звільнення з посади генпрокурат0ра

(Українська правда/УНІАН)—19 лютого колегія суддів Верховного Суду скасувала всі ухвали у справі за скаргою колишнього генпрокурора Святослава Піскуна щодо визнання незаконним його звільнення та поновлення на цій посаді і закрила провадження у справі.

На початку судового засідання зазначалося, що до ВСУ надійшов лист від Піскуна, датований 15 лютого 2007 року, в якому він пише, що відмовляється від позовної заяви до президента щодо незаконного звільнення з посади генпрокурора, і просить суд закрити провадження у справі.

У свою чергу представник інтересів Піскуна в суді зазначила, що вона вперше чує про цю заяву і взагалі не отримувала інформації від Піскуна щодо цієї заяви.

Також вона зазначила, що для неї є дивним, що в листі Піскуна відсутній вхідний номер, яким він має бути зареєстрованим у канцелярії ВСУ під час надходження.

Між тим, один із представників інтересів президента в суді Микола Полудьоний зазначив, що не бачить перешкод для того, щоб прохання Піскуна було задоволене.

Таким чином, суд, порадившись, виніс ухвалу скасувати всі раніше винесені у справі ухвали і провадження у справі закрити.

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Yanukovych warns of standoff over constitution

(Ukrainian Journal)—Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych on Feb. 20 warned of "very tough" standoff within Ukraine if President Viktor Yushchenko moves ahead with plans to amend the country's constitution through a referendum.

"This is a dangerous way," Yanukovych said. "First of all, it's dangerous for the presidential office and for the president himself." "I wouldn't want things to get that far, but there will be a new round of confrontation, a very tough one."

The comment is the toughest wording yet from Yanukovych over Yushchenko's proposals to amend the constitution in order to avert the looming constitutional crisis in the country.

The crisis is looming large in Ukraine amid a growing dispute between the pro-Russian government and the pro-Western president over some of their constitutional powers following controversial amendments enacted on Jan. 1, 2006.

The amendments shifted many presidential powers, such as the right to appoint and to fire ministers, to the pro-government coalition in Parliament. Although the amendments allow the president to nominate foreign and defense ministers, a recent controversial bill approved by the coalition at some point allows the coalition to nominate both ministers.

The situation may lead to the coalition seeking to approve its own foreign minister to end the pro-Western foreign policy course, a move that would most likely be challenged by Yushchenko.

Yushchenko has been repeatedly calling for debates over the new amendments that would ensure the presidential powers and control over the country's foreign and defense policies.

However, the coalition has been persistently rejecting the calls, while the Communist Party, a small and vehemently pro-Russian group in the government, has even called for canceling the post of the president.

The coalition's refusal to debate the amendments forced Yushchenko to suggest the plan that would anticipate approval of the new amendments at a referendum.

But Yanukovych's sharp criticism of the plan underscores a powerful opposition that would probably postpone it indefinitely, analysts said. This will probably leave the Constitutional Court to rule over the next 12 months on most of disputed issues, analysts said.

However, the delay in ending the dispute may defacto benefit Yanukovych, who believes he has already gotten extra powers to define foreign and defense policies, analysts said.

Yushchenko urges consideration for transit countries

(RFE/RL)—Viktor Yushchenko said at the Munich Conference on Security Policy on Feb. 10 that Europe needs to take into account the interests of the countries that serve as transit routes for Europe-bound energy supplies, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

"[These countries] should be equal partners within a predictably reliable, economically effective, and environmentally favorable mechanism for ensuring the energy security of the European continent," Yushchenko noted.

Yushchenko recalled that Ukraine transported 45 million tons of oil and 129 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Europe in 2006. He added that these volumes could and should be increased, but only if Ukraine's partners in Europe show their interest in new projects, including the transportation of oil from the Caspian region and Central Asian countries.

Two days earlier, Yushchenko told German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Feb. 8 that Ukraine will continue to meet its obligations under the Energy Charter, including secure gas and oil transit to Europe, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported.

"Ukraine understands its important role in the formation of Europe's energy-security policy and is conscious of its responsibility.

I know that last year's story perhaps wasn't always presented [in the media] with complete objectivity, but I want to stress that Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the Energy Charter," Yushchenko said at a joint news conference with Merkel.

Speaking at a business forum in Berlin later the same day, Yushchenko said he has not authorized anyone to talk with Russia about the joint use of the Ukrainian gas-transportation network.

Earlier this month Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed that Kyiv has made a "revolutionary" offer to unify both countries' gas-transportation systems in exchange for a share in Russia's gas-drilling sector.

German chancellor endorses Ukraine's integration hopes

(RFE/RL)—Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has told Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko that she supports Ukraine's aspirations for closer integration with Europe.

During a press conference following their talks in Berlin Feb. 8, Merkel, whose country holds the EU's rotating Presidency, said she discussed with Yushchenko the first steps toward such integration, including a new agreement on enhanced cooperation.

Yushchenko has made EU membership a priority for Ukraine, but the bloc has so far suggested only a strengthening of partnership.

In a reference to a cutoff in gas supplies last year following a dispute between Russia and Ukraine, Yushchenko said his country is "conscious" of the responsibility to ensure a steady flow of energy to Western Europe.

"Ukraine understands its important role in the formation of Europe's energy-security policy and is conscious of its responsibility," he said. "I know that last year's story perhaps wasn't always presented [in the media] with complete objectivity, but I want to stress that Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the Energy Charter."

Cabinet accuses opposition of 'unbounded cynicism'

(RFE/RL)—The Cabinet of Ministers charged in a statement on Feb. 20 that the opposition wants to destabilize the situation in the country, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

The statement came in response to the unsuccessful efforts by the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine parliamentary caucuses earlier the same day to pass bills on increasing the monthly minimum wage and on limiting utility-tariff hikes.

"Today the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine once again demonstrated the unbounded cynicism of their policy," the statement reads.

"In August 2005, Tymoshenko personally decided to break the extremely favorable five-year agreement on Russian gas supplies to Ukraine at the price of $48 per 1,000 cubic meters.

The doubling of the price for imported gas that followed has irreversibly brought about increased prices for foodstuffs and consumer goods as well as a hike in tariffs for electricity and other utilities."

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Résumés will be accepted until March 1, 2007.

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Let your MPs know where you stand on redress

Once again, the Ukrainian Canadian community is back at square one when it comes to negotiating the terms of the World War I Internment redress agreement.

There had been previous agreements — in 2003 with then Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, and in 2005 with then Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, only to fall by the wayside when governments changed.

On Feb. 16, the process, for all practical purposes, started anew when representatives of our community met with Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney. Judging by our interviews both with Kenney and the Ukrainian Canadian community representatives, the minister is keeping an open mind on this issue and welcomes further dialogue.

This is encouraging, and while the window of opportunity remains open, our community should use it to make several critical points to the minister and his government.

This concerns both the final amount and the manner in which it is to be administered.

The Ukrainian Canadian community is asking for a total amount of $12.5 million which is to be set aside as an endowment fund to undertake a series of commemorative, research, cultural and educational initiatives to benefits all Canadians, which is to be administered by the Taras Shevchenko Foundation.

This was the final sum agreed to with the previous administration. The $2.5 million pledged in the Aug. 24, 2005, Agreement in Principle signed with then Prime Minister Paul Martin was clearly identified as an initial amount as that sum had been previously allocated in the February 2005 budget. The additional $10 million would have been allocated in the 2006 budget, had the previous government not gone down to defeat in the House of Commons. According to Goodale, it was included in a fiscal update published in November, 2005.

The current government has agreed to honour the initial payments only. These were included in both the Community Historical Recognition Program and the National Historical Recognition Program. However, these programs were announced unilaterally. In the two meeting Heritage Minister Bev Oda held with the Ukrainian community prior to this announcement, the representatives made it clear that they did not agree with these programs and that the $12.5 million was the amount the community agreed upon. It should be noted this sum amounts to less than one quarter in 2007 dollars of the value set by Price Waterhouse on the losses sustained by the Ukrainian Canadian community during the 1914-1920 internment and that Bill C331 (the *Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act*, passed in November, 2005) obliges the government to negotiate an agreement with the Ukrainian community as opposed to unilaterally imposing one.

The other major bone of contention is who will actually administer the funds. The Aug. 24, 2005 Agreement in Principle clearly states these funds will be administered by the Taras Shevchenko Foundation, which will report to the government on its expenditures. Apparently the government wants to administer the funds itself, though that is not written in stone. The Government of Canada website states only that program details are being finalized. This is a critical point. The community has proven itself more efficient in administering funds, as evidenced by the Ukraine election observer projects, and also there is the question of why we should go cap in hand to a bureaucracy which, according to documents obtained by the Winnipeg Free Press through the Freedom of Information Act, had scuttled a previous agreement.

While governments may change, the position of the Ukrainain Canadian community remains the same.

What is needed now, is for members of our community — especially those who are represented by Conservative Members of Parliament — to let their representatives know that they support the Ukrainian Canadian community's positions. Call them, write them, or even talk to them in person — but let your MPs know where you stand. The government is prepared to listen, and it's up to us to ensure that they hear what we have to say.

Who is stopping Russia?

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

The New Way Forward in Iraq carries a key message by President George Bush: the United States must finish the job it starts. Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with America's presence there in the past, failure to finish the job has undermined one of America's key foreign policy tenets — the spread of democracy.

In Afghanistan, for example, America won handsomely against the mighty Soviet war machine. However, failure to manage the ensuing peace with the required dedication let the victory to degenerate into the chaos and anti-Americanism it is today.

Nowhere has the lack of sufficient commitment to nurturing new democracies backfired more than in the former Soviet Union. The cold war victory may be America's greatest political triumph of the 20th century. Some half billion people were liberated from one of history's greatest reigns of terror; democracy was introduced to the largest geographic area in the world; and 14 new republics joined the community of nations.

Fifteen years later, there are serious fault lines throughout this region with dire consequences to the new democracies and to the United States. And to world peace. Not only is the victory over the despotic Communist dictatorship reversing, but the hard earned gains of democracy building is being lost to the former oppressor, Russia and its emperor-like president, Vladimir Putin. Perhaps none is more discouraging to its people and detrimental to America than the back-sliding in Ukraine.

The second largest county in Europe, with some of the most advanced Soviet industries — space, cybernetics, shipbuilding — with outstanding agriculture, energy refining and transporting systems to Europe, and a superbly educated workforce has, now, a pro-Russian Prime Minister Victor Yanukhovych. He is de facto a mouth piece for Russia's imperialist interests.

This political about-turn follows on the heels of Ukraine's finest democratic hour, the Orange Revolution which sent a message to Russia: you can't run us anymore. Yet two years later, Russia's clutch on Ukraine's domestic policies, international relations, and aggressive Russification of Ukraine's population through government policies, media, schools seems as invasive as in the Soviet days.

What happened?

Preoccupied with a new initiative — building democracy in Iraq — America lost sight of the success this same foreign policy tenet of its foreign policy had achieved in Ukraine. This lack of attention allowed Russia to manipulate Ukraine's March 2006 parliamentary elections and install an anti-west government. The supposedly pro-western President Victor Yushchenko watched passively.

With a weak President and with US interests focused elsewhere, Ukraine's democrats were not strong enough to withstand Russia-backed shenanigans. The victory of a democratic election was snatched *z pid nosa,* from under their very noses, as the Ukrainians say.

By regaining control in Ukraine, Russia got its biggest psychological boost since losing the cold war. Disillusioned Ukrainians say it was handed to the Russians because America's policy has been and continues to be Russo-centric. They maintain that after the loss of the cold war and the initial fleeing of Kremlin's apparatchiks — mainly to Israel, Britain and Canada — Kremlin's terrified Communists realized there would be no consequence to their murderous past. They were right. There was no Nuremberg trial for some 60 million murdered by the Soviet dictatorship; no Retribution Commission, as in South Africa. There were no posthumous trials of the likes of Lenin, Stalin, Kaganovych — the architect of the Famine Terror in Ukraine which alone starved about 10 million people.

America's foreign policy was tolerant, nay, benevolent to its enemy. Former Communists told Americans what they wanted to hear: we are now democrats. And few listened to knowledgeable Ukrainians, and others, who warned that these are not democrats but wolves in sheep skin coats. American Russophiles and left-wingers called for gentle treatment of Russia's humiliation recalling its great history but choosing to forget that the history had been despotic and murderous. No two acts were more Russo-centric than President George Bush I "Chicken Kiev" speech scolding Ukraine for seeking freedom from Russia. The other was the incredible invitation to Russia to join the G-7.

Despite the "democratic" rhetoric directed at Ukraine and other newly independent states, America's foreign policy chose to see them primarily through a Russian policy prism. If Russia said "da" to initiatives, there was support; if "nyet", America conceded. Ukraine was forced to give up its nuclear arsenal to Russia and, back in the 1990's when there was support for joining NATO, the membership was denied to placate Russia's opposition. To Russia, this indicated that it could still have things its way. To the rest, it made America look like a loser. Yet the mindset prevailed and continues today: Ukraine's membership in the WTO is predicated on Russia's readiness to join.

Now that Russia's control in its near abroad, and in particular Ukraine, is ascending, it has a fortified base for grander ambitions. Emboldened, Russia is advancing its agenda globally with dire consequences to America and world peace. There is the danger of nuclear power in the hands of rogue states like Iran and North Korea. Syria is a concern and the Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal are destabilizing. Closer to home there are danger signs from far left presidents Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua. It is a safe bet that Russia's presence is more active and welcomed throughout these regions now than a few years ago and much more so since the Soviet collapse when Russia's prospects were dimmed.

This "back to the USSR" scenario could have been prevented. Following the defeat in Moscow, there should have been an equivalent of the Nuremberg trial for the leaders. The Communist party should have been outlawed like the Nazis. Its left-wing apologists should have been treated as social pariahs just like Holocaust deniers are. And the same for communist revisionists be they Marxist, Leninist or whatever the moniker.

Hopefully, it is not too late to do just that. America can refocus its foreign policy towards Ukraine and the other newly independent states; stop seeing them through the Russia optic; and finish the job of democracy building it started there. This may be more productive than spreading America's resources thinly in places with little prospects of success in democracy building. This is where its interests lie. And so does world peace. Canada can play a key role by leading in the foreign policy realm. After all it understands Ukraine's politics better than most countries. It's one million strong diaspora tells it how it is.

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, President U*CAN Ukraine Canada Relations Inc. is an international commentator.*

Yushchenko, Yanukovych sue each other

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—As Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych continue to dispute each other's powers, interpreting the constitutional amendments of 2004-2006 each in his own favor, both hope for support from the judiciary. On Feb. 5 Yushchenko referred the new law on the Cabinet of Ministers, which cuts his authority, to the Constitutional Court. Later on, Yushchenko instructed his secretariat to find out from the Constitutional Court whether he can dismiss the cabinet assembled by Yanukovych. The Cabinet almost simultaneously filed several lawsuits against Yushchenko – obviously tit for tat.

On Feb. 15, Yushchenko's legal advisor Ihor Pukshyn announced at a briefing in Kyiv that the presidential secretariat was going to ask the Constitutional Court to clarify whether the president can dismiss the Cabinet. Pukshyn explained that there is an article in the constitution that stipulates that the Cabinet is accountable to both parliament and the president. This, according to Pukshyn, should mean that the president, not only parliament, can dismiss the Cabinet.

The president had this right before 2006, when the constitutional amendments of December 2004 came into force. The amended constitution, however, leaves to the president only the right to ask parliament to vote no confidence in the Cabinet, First Deputy Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Olena Lukash explained, expanding on Pukshyn's statement. The final word is up to parliament, which is currently dominated by Yanukovych supporters. This means that Yushchenko would have no chance of getting rid of Yanukovych if he sought parliament's help.

Yanukovych flatly dismissed Pukshyn's announcement, speaking to journalists on Feb. 16. "If lawsuits against certain presidential decrees were a reason for the president's indignation, I think this is all emotional," said Yanukovych. He meant the lawsuits that the Cabinet decided at its meeting on Feb. 15 to file against Yushchenko, citing "the president's illegal orders regarding several regional administration heads," according to Pukshyn.

One of those lawsuits regards the governor of Kharkiv Region, Arsen Avakov. The Cabinet filed it at a district court in Kyiv, complaining of Yushchenko's "illegal inaction" regarding the dismissal of Avakov. On June 3, 2006, the Kharkiv regional council voted no confidence in Avakov, whom Yushchenko had appointed immediately after the Orange Revolution.

Origins of Putin's 'revolutionary development' a mystery

By Roman Kupchinsky

(RFE/RL)—Russian President Vladimir Putin stirred up a hornet's nest when he publicly announced earlier this month that the Ukrainian government had approached Russia with the idea of unifying the countries' respective gas-pipeline networks.

Putin hailed the overture, coupled with Ukrainian interest in drilling for natural gas on Russian territory, as a "revolutionary development" that was in the "interest of both countries."

Ukrainian officials and lawmakers responded quickly to Putin's comments, made on Feb. 1 to reporters assembled for the annual Munich Conference on Security Policy.

Within days, legislation had been passed forbidding the sale or transfer of ownership of Ukraine's trunk gas pipeline to another country. An investigation was also launched to determine just who may have been responsible for making such proposals.

Vitaliy Hayduk, chairman of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, soon provided some insight.

Hayduk told a Feb. 16 press conference that, after a meeting of the Yushchenko-Putin Commission in December, it was in fact an unidentified aide of Putin's who had delivered a memorandum containing such proposals. "Given its content," Hayduk said, "such a memorandum was deemed unacceptable and could not be signed."

Hayduk's claims were supported the next day by the deputy head of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's administration, Oleksandr Chaliy. On Feb. 17, Chaliy revealed that Putin had proposed the idea of an asset swap — Ukraine's pipeline in exchange for Russia granting Ukraine the right to drill for gas on Russian soil — during a Jan. 10 phone conversation with Yushchenko.

However, Chaliy said, the Ukrainian president had rejected the idea. "No proposals to exchange assets" ever came from Yushchenko, Chaliy insisted.

Public suspicion then turned to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko.

Yanukovych at first appeared be caught off guard by the Ukrainian parliament's harsh reaction to Putin's comments — even within the ranks of his own Party of Regions. In the immediate aftermath, Yanukovych made a number of contradictory statements on the issue while trying to blame the scandal on members of Yushchenko's administration.

But Hayduk's and Chaliy's testimonies that Russia's proposals had been rebuffed by Yushchenko's administration served to embarrass Yanukovych's government, which turned to Boyko to arrange a campaign to save face.

As Hayduk made his revelations, Boyko met with Gazprom CEO Aleksei Miller to discuss "the development of strategic cooperation between Russia and Ukraine in the oil and gas sector."

No details were provided of what the two men spoke about.

However, Interfax reported that the day before the meeting Boyko had said Ukraine should be given access to Russian gas reserves since UkrHazEnergo — a partly Russian joint venture between the Swiss-registered gas trader RosUkrEnergo and Ukraine's Naftohaz Ukrayiny — was already working in the Ukrainian market.

The flaw in Boyko's logic, though, is that UkrHazEnergo can hardly be considered a Russian company. Only one-quarter of the firm belongs to Gazprom — the rest belongs to Ukraine's Naftohaz and two private Ukrainian businessmen.

Interfax on Feb. 15 also cited Boyko as saying he knew of an agreement Yanukovych had with the "leadership of the Russian Federation" under which Ukraine would be allowed to produce gas in Russia.

This revelation led to question about with whom in the "Russian leadership" Yanukovych had reached such an agreement. If it was Putin, could this be the origin of the Russian president's announcement in Munich?

One theory is that Yanukovych agreed to Putin's proposals under the condition that UkrHazEnergo — whose role in Ukraine's energy sector is being debated — be kept in tact.

Putin, as the theory goes, may have gone ahead and made the agreement public in the believe that it was a done deal.

If so, the strong resistance his words received in Ukraine must have been an embarrassment to the Russian leader — both because he was caught jumping the gun on his dealings with Ukraine and because of the realization that he may not be as influential in dealings with Ukraine as he expected when Yanukovych became prime minister.

Yushchenko, Yanukovych sue each other

Avakov is, however, still the governor.

Although the constitutional reform has put an end to the president's control over the Cabinet, the constitution preserved the president's right to appoint regional governors. In Kharkiv, Yanukovych's allies have controlled both the mayoral office and the regional council since the local elections of March 2006, but Yushchenko decided to keep loyal Avakov. As he did not react to the no-confidence motion in Avakov, Yanukovych last October officially petitioned Yushchenko to dismiss Avakov, but Yushchenko ignored the petition.

The Cabinet believes that Yushchenko violated the law by not firing Avakov, but the presidential secretariat says that no legal violation occurred. Pukshyn said that a separate service would be set up at the secretariat in order to represent Yushchenko in court. Currently, the Ministry of Justice formally represents the president, but when the Cabinet, to which the ministry is subordinated, is the plaintiff and the president is the defendant, a conflict of interest arises. Yushchenko's team is apparently preparing for serious legal warfare with the Cabinet – a timely precaution, given that Lukash has been quoted as saying that the Cabinet is going to dispute in courts about 10% of the decrees Yushchenko has issued.

This exchange of blows may be used as an element of pressure or a bargaining chip by both sides, but it is unlikely to result in the dismissal of the Cabinet. UNIAN news agency has quoted the head of the Kyiv-based Center for the Study of Political Values think tank, Oles Doniy, who described the presidential secretariat's intention to turn to the Constitutional Court over the possibility of dismissing the Cabinet as "legal illiteracy."

Doniy also pointed to the danger of de-legitimizing the Constitutional Court in the eyes of the general public, as the court's integrity may be publicly questioned by either of the two sides, depending on the verdict. "If the presidential secretariat prepares this request… it means that it for some reason hopes for a positive result," Doniy said. "Consequently suspicions arise regarding financial or administrative influence on CC judges."

Constitutional Court chief justice Ivan Dombrovsky, who was appointed last year, senses pressure. Speaking at his first press conference on Feb. 15, Dombrovsky did not rule out his resignation if top officials and the mass media put excessive pressure on the court. He said that he would not trade his moral integrity "even for a million dollars" and that nobody has ever offered bribes to him. Dombrovsky also denied media reports alleging that the Court would soon declare the Yanukovych's Cabinet illegal.

Yushchenko, meeting with newly appointed judges on Feb. 19, warned them against taking sides in political fights. "Some judges have chosen political submission as their way of life," he said.

Tolerance reduces need for Russian language law in Ukraine

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—Although Ukraine's Party of Regions introduced a new draft language law to parliament last fall, interest in the bill will decline following the unexpected death of key party ideologue Yevhen Kushnariov last month. Elevating Russian to an official or second state language requires a change to the 1996 constitution, and the ruling Anti-Crisis coalition is short by 60 votes.

The Party of Regions and Communists are alone in their support for elevating the status of the Russian language. A large proportion of the centrist camp that backed the Leonid Kuchma regime continues to support the 1989 law and 1996 constitution that make Ukrainian the sole state language but provides for official tolerance of local language diversity.

National Security Council secretary Vitaliy Hayduk, head of the Industrial Union of Donbas, a rival to Renat Akhmetov's Systems Capital Management, which backs the Party of Regions, is opposed to making Russian a second state language. "We should proceed very cautiously, without going to extremes. We should not sensationalize the situation, either," he warned.

The language issue has had little saliency, except during the 1994 and 2004 presidential election campaigns. The Razumkov Center warned on the eve of the 2004 elections that the language issue in of itself would be unlikely to head to "serious social conflict," but they added, "politicization of this question could lead to negative consequences." Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych and his Russian political advisors politicized the issue in the 2004 elections.

In a 2001 Razmukov Center survey only 7% of respondents believed that the Russian language was a critical issue, placing it 24th out of 30 issues. In January 2002, only 1.6% said that the inclusion of language in a party's program would influence whether or not they would vote for it.

A 2006 survey found similar results. Of the ten most acute problems facing Ukraine, the Russian language was mentioned by only 8%, a figure due primarily to the 25% interest level in the Crimea and Donbas. North and west of these two regions only between 2.5% and 4% saw it is as an issue. Two-thirds of the 8% who consider the Russian language an issue reside in the Donbas and Crimea, two areas that are bastions of support for the Party of Regions and Communists and ironically where Russian is not in any way challenged, let alone threatened.

The Razumkov Center and other think tanks found that Ukrainian- and Russian-speakers each number about 40%, the other 20% percent use both languages. The latter could be the crucial swing vote in Kyiv and central Ukraine. The language issue has therefore never generated more than a third in favor of elevating Russian to a second state language.

One reason why the language issue is not a priority for most Ukrainians is that tolerance of language diversity is different from the election rhetoric of politicians intent on capitalizing on the language issue. The Russian language dominates in Ukraine's print and Internet media, while television has a greater degree of Ukrainian-language content.

The top three Internet sites in Ukraine are *Ukrayinska Pravda*, *Obozrevatel*, and *Korrespondent*, all receiving between 43,000 and 48,000 hits per day. Of these, only the first appears in both Ukrainian and Russian while the latter two are solely in Russian.

One reason why the language issue is not a priority for most Ukrainians is that tolerance of language diversity is different from the election rhetoric of politicians intent on capitalizing on the language issue.

Language choice does not appear to be linked to political allegiance, as the first two are sympathetic to the Orange camp, while the latter is published by an American who publishes the Kyiv Post.

Korrespondent magazine, the print version of the web site, is a Ukrainian attempt to emulate Western newsweeklies, such as *Time*, and is aimed at New Ukrainians. A new Russian-language glossy news magazine, *Fokus*, is edited by a well-known former journalist from the Ukrainian-language 1+1 channel and a 2006 parliamentary candidate of the Reforms and Order (Pora) bloc.

It is no coincidence that these two magazines are in Russian, nor that all of Ukraine's glossy journals are aimed at New Ukrainians. These include an entire range of Western women's and lifestyle magazines reprinted in Russian. Indeed, the only woman's magazine in Ukrainian is the flimsy, Soviet-era relic *Zhinka* (Woman).

Use of the Russian language is dominant in the 18-49 age group, while Ukrainian is stronger among the 50-59 population. Yet, New Ukrainians and young people, whose source of print information is in Russian, backed the Orange Revolution. Young people do not support elevating Russian to a second state language, perhaps because they tend to back Orange parties, such as Our Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko and the Socialists whose voters support Ukrainian as the sole state language.

All of Ukraine's leading print newspapers are in Russian (*Fakty*, linked to Viktor Pinchuk, *Segodnya* (Party of Regions), *Kievski Vedomosti*, *2000*, (Social Democratic Party-United) and were staunch supporters of the Kuchma regime. The Orange camp also has invested as much in Russian publications as in Ukrainian ones, such as *Kyivskiy Telegraf* (Andriy Derkach, Socialists).

Our Ukraine has a greater number of Russian- than Ukrainian-language publications: *Pravda Ukrainy* (Petro Poroshenko, Our Ukraine), *Izvestiya v Ukrainy* and www.glavred.info (Oleksandr Tretyakov, Our Ukraine), *Delovaya Stolitsa*, and *Vlast Deneg*. Two newspapers sympathetic to the Tymoshenko bloc are also in Russian: *Gazeta Po-Kievski* and *Vecherny Vesti* and a third, *Svoboda*, is published in both languages.

Ukrainian-language newspapers with large circulations are only made available thanks to the state, such as parliament's *Holos Ukrainy*. Ukrainian-language publications linked to Our Ukraine include only *Ukrayina Moloda* and *Bez Tsenzury*, which have small circulations compared to the Russian-language media. The Socialists still have close ties to the large circulation *Silski Visti*.

The language ambivalence reflected in these attitudes to media language mirrors the support for the legal status quo on languages and tolerance of diversity. Parliament is unlikely to pass the latest draft language law.

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McGill students celebrate Ukrainian Week

(MUSA)—The McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA) organized a series of events during their "McGill Ukrainian Week 2007", a tradition that dates back to 1953 on McGill campus.

Among the varied week-long events held from Jan. 18 to 28 included a talk by Prof. Yarema Kelebay marking the 75th anniversary of the 1932-33 famine-genocide titled, "Reflections on the Black Book of Communism"; a talk on trafficking in Ukraine with three guests from Ukraine coordinated by Halyna Zalucka from Toronto, a talk by Dr. Evhen Kaluzny titled "Spiritualism and Capitalism"; a pub night at McGill's Gerts as a fund-raider for "Help Us Help the Children"; the showing of the internment documentary Freedom Had A Price, and a wine and cheese with the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Montreal.

Because of the successful projects organized last year by the revived Ukrainian club, MUSA was nominated as one of three best active clubs on McGill campus for 2006. Their hard work and achievements were recognized and was given their own office space in the McGill Students' Union Building and recently, provided with a computer and server space for MUSA's new web site www.ssmu.ca/musa. McGill University also now recognizes Ukrainian studies at the University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Kyiv as 6 credit courses for McGill students, due to the efforts of MUSA president.

Executive members of MUSA with president, Artem Luhovy (front centre).

With the financial support from the Montreal Ukrainian community, including individual and business card ads, a 20 page "McGill Ukrainian Week 2007" booklet was printed which included information on and photos of past student events and an article by Prof. Roman Serbyn on the famine-genocide.

Activities were organized by a dynamic executive with Artem Luhovy, president; Roxanne Zalucky vice-president; Jaroslaw Holowka, treasurer; as well as members Layla Shbat, Ksenia Yatsenko, Jesse Marynowycz, Nick Saldan, Christina Szuper, Michael Duchnay and George Diete. The McGill Ukrainian Students' Association has 125 members with students from Montreal, throughout Canada, U.S. and Ukraine. In the words of president Luhovy, "Students with a Ukrainian background, come and sign-up at our annual registration table and life-long friendships are eventually forged, through the events MUSA organizes throughout the year. We are also in contact with the Toronto Ukrainian Students' Association and with them, hope to revive the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), so all existing Ukrainian clubs across Canada could get to know each other, work together and have a presence on the various campuses."

MUSA's next project is on March 20 at the McGill Faculty Club organized with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, the McGill Department of Education and the UCPBA of Montreal. Guest speaker will be a British-Ukrainian writer- journalist, presently at the Keenan Institute, Jaroslaw Koshiw. He is writing a book on the famous "Melnychenko Tapes", the recordings of President Kuchma, that created a major scandal in Ukraine. For further information, please contact MUSA at (514) 398-4400 ext. 09964.

Buy a memory....
Invest in a legacy

Plans continue for an exciting new cultural landmark – the downtown Edmonton location of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA). This public heritage museum, archive and community programming facility will preserve and promote the rich Ukrainian cultural heritage and the role it has played in the development of our communities, our province and our country.

Renowned artist PETER SHOSTAK is providing a generous gift of his acclaimed limited edition prints in support of UCAMA. Purchase one today! Buy a memory for yourself... and invest in the legacy of UCAMA's new museum!

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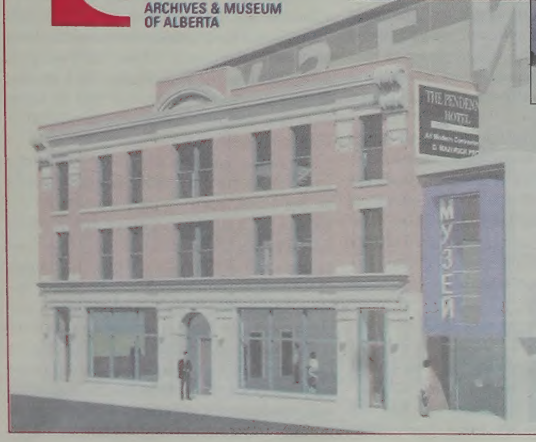

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Pilot error blamed for crash

(RFE/RL)—Russia's Interstate Aviation Committee has blamed pilot error for August's crash of a Pulkovo Airlines jet near the Ukrainian city of Donetsk.

All 170 passengers and crew onboard were killed.

The investigative committee's final report said the crew failed to follow procedures that would have prevented the plane from stalling, causing it to plummet to the ground.

It said a junior pilot-in-training was at the controls at the time of the accident and that the more experienced captain failed to assist him.

The Tupolev-154 crashed while flying through bad weather, on a flight from the Russian Black Sea resort of Anapa to St. Petersburg.

Romania asks Ukraine not to populate disputed islet

(RFE/RL)—The Romanian Foreign Ministry has requested that Ukraine demonstrate restraint in populating the tiny Serpents Island in the Black Sea, Interfax reported on Feb. 12.

"Bucharest insistently advises Ukraine to refrain from attempts of establishing artificial settlements in a territory that is a subject of dispute between the two states," the ministry said in a recent statement.

Romania and Ukraine have been in litigation before the Hague-based International Court of Justice since 2005 over the delimitation of their maritime border around Serpents Island.

Ukraine regards the island as an area entitled to its own territorial waters while Romania sees it as a cliff without such a right.

The island has an area of 1.5 square kilometers and a population of some 80 people, including lighthouse keepers, naval surveyors, biologists, and geophysicists.

The Ukrainian parliament passed a resolution the previous week giving the name Bile to the settlement on the islet.

UCTSF holds 10th Saskatoon fundraiser

By Al Kachkowski

The Saskatchewan Friends of the Shevchenko Foundation - Saskatoon Chapter sponsored their tenth annual fundraising event at Holy Cross High School, Feb. 2.

It featured the unveiling of a specially commissioned work of art and dignitaries who arrived from Winnipeg and Edmonton. More than 160 donors and invited guests attended the festive, balloon-adorned event and were entertained by 75 performers.

Musicians Matthew Gruza, Antin Hawrysh and Mark Klopoushak greeted all arrivals at the door.

Cathy Schabel acted as MC and recognized the excellent work the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (UCFTS) has done within the Ukrainian community in the course of the last 40 years. She pointed out that more than 30 Ukrainian groups from Saskatoon have benefited and continue to benefit from Shevchenko Foundation grants. Since its inception, the Foundation has granted more than $6 million, of which more than $600,000 has benefited Saskatchewan recipients.

Nadia Prokopchuk, chairperson of the Saskatoon Friends of the Shevchenko Foundation, expressed pleasure on reaching the milestone 10th event and Larry Balion compiled a power point presentation of images from all the past nine events indicating the mission and the status of the Foundation.

Al Kachkowski, Development Officer, introduced Andriy Hladyshevsky, national President of the Foundation, who described the rising prominence of the UCFTS in the community. He quoted Shevchenko's poetry in which he implores the Ukrainian people to keep their culture strong and tied Shevchenko's writing to the spirit of the Ukrainian Canadian pioneers and to the role of the UCFTS in promoting the Ukrainian culture in Canada.

The MC the introduced UCFTS Executive Director Lesia Szwaluk, who has served in that capacity for the last five years and was attending her first Saskatoon Fund Raising Social & Cabaret.

Kachkowski introduced the projects that were awarded grants and Hladyshevsky presented the cheques to nine recipients, who were: Doreen Howlett, representing the St. Petro Mohyla Institute; Tamara Pidperyhora representing the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble; Vitali Sorokotiaguine representing the Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble; Nadia Prokopchuk representing the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatchewan Provincial Council & Saskatchewan Learning; Evelyn Wojcichowsky representing the UCC - SPC; Judy-Anne Chabun representing Vesna Festival; Paul Bunka representing St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Camp, Slawko Kindrachuk representing Ukraine Day in the Park, and Serhij Koroliuk.

Representatives of organizations within Saskatoon's Ukrainian community, who presented cheques as donations to the capital fund of the Foundation are as follows: Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada - Bishop Roborecky Branch - Eugene Pryma; (TYC) Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association - Steppe Branch - Syl Syrnick; Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada - Hanka Romanchych Branch - Sonia Sokyrka; Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Saskatoon - Dave Mysak; New Community Credit Union - Annette Pshebylo; Bayda Kozaks - Paul Bunka; UCC - Saskatoon Branch - Slawko Kindrachuk; All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Brotherhood of Sts. Boris & Hlib - Boris Kishchuk and St. Thomas More College - Natalia Shostak.

The Kobzar Fellowship is a program, which recognises and honours individuals who have made a planned deferred gift to the Foundation. This year's inductees are:

Christine Baran-Devrome, who grew up in Saskatoon as a member of St George's Cathedral parish. She completed a Master of Education degree in Counseling Psychology. At present she is a Registered Psychologist with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists. Devrome spent 12 years on the Advisory Committee for Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations. She has held a number of prominent positions in Ukrainian community organizations and served as an election observer in Ukraine for the December election during the Orange Revolution.

Bernice Mysak, who was born on a farm southwest of Veregin, Sask. After attending high school in Canora, she went to Saskatoon to finish high school. Bernice was chosen to represent Saskatoon CYMK (Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association) and was chosen the first National CYMK Queen in 1937. She was a very active member of the Ukrainian Women's Association for over 65 years and is now a life honourary member of the Canora Branch. She and her husband Walter made 7 trips to Ukraine, each time leading a group interested in seeking their roots.

During the In Memoriam section of the program, Schabel noted eight Saskatoon area Foundation supporters who passed away during the previous year — Emilia Panamaroff, Michael Boychuk, Bishop Basil Filevich, Stephen Kuzma, Walter Podiluk, Alex Chomyn, Steve Woytowich and Anna Dorosh.

To mark the 10th anniversary celebration, the organizing committee commissioned an art work by Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn of Edmonton to represent a Ukrainian prairie landscape. A limited edition of print entitled "High beyond clouds in the infinite blue" inspired by Saskatchewan's "Living Skies", was unveiled. It represents a prairie landscape with stems of wheat and tiger lilies in the foreground, parted to reveal a Ukrainian church on the horizon near a grove of trees and is topped with a spectacular blue sky streaked with wisps of white cloud.

PHOTO — LEONARD PROKOCHUK

Pavlychenko performs "The Departing Kozak" with the Lastiwka Choir singing in the background.

Sembaliuk-Cheladyn is an accomplished Canadian artist who holds a fine arts degree in art and design from the University of Alberta. Her works are found in private and corporate collections throughout North and South America, Australia and Europe.

There are a total of 300 prints signed by the artist and 75 were on sale at the event.

Entertainment was provided by the Yevshan Dancers, the Lastiwka Choir and the Pavlychenko Dancers, under the direction of Vitali Sorokotiaguine, Serhij Koroliuk and Larry Klopoushak, respectively.

Yevshan performed a number entitled "Pleskach" and Pavlychenko followed with "Dubotanets". Lastiwka filled the middle of the program with three songs of the Christmas/NewYear season: "Shchedryj Vechir", "Snih Bilije" and "Za Viknom Chorna Khmara Vjetsja" For their concluding number, Yevshan performed a hutsul number "Hutsuls'kyj Tanets". In the finale, Pavlychenko teamed with Lastiwka to perform the vocal-choreographic composition, "The Departing Kozak", a. song of love and bidding farewell dedicated to those who fought for our freedom..

The evening ended with 28 prints sold, generating a revenue of over $3,000. More are expected to be sold in the months to come.

A total of $8,469 in donations was raised at the event.

PHOTO — AL KACHKOWSKI

Organizing committee with newly unveiled art work. (l-r) Al Kachkowski, Nadia Prokopchuk, Sylvia Baran, Doreen Howlett, Sonia Mysak, Larry Balion, Cec Kachkowski, Garry Sklaruk, Eldrid Hrytsak, Terry Labach, Natalia Shostak and Christine Devrome.

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Перша Маланка української громади в Токіо

(Краяни/Товариством японсько-українських культурних зв'язків)—13 січня 2007 року в Токіо українська громада в Японії «Краяни» разом з «Товариством японсько-українських культурних зв'язків» вперше святкувала Маланку. Окрім активних членів цих організацій на свято прийшло немало японців, зацікавлених в українському мистецтві, спорті, тощо.

Спочатку був показ документального фільму про Україну, бо не дуже багато японців знають про нас і треба було дати уявлення всім про нашу країну. По закінчення показу краяни відкрили вечір щедрівками і запросили усіх скуштувати куті. Так почалося свято. А далі були виступи японських виконавців Кувата Морійосі (гітара) та Накамура Хацуе (співачка, сопрано), до репертуару яких ввійшли українські твори, виступ голови «Товариства японсько-українських культурних зв'язків» пана Оно та показ документального фільму, який він зняв на Маланку на Україні. По-справжньому усі гості та й організатори змогли відчути любов українського народу до музики і пісні, доторкнутися до його душі під час гри на бандурі та співу відомої української бандуристки Оксани Степанюк.

Під час концерту гості змогли скуштувати українських страв, приготованих краянами, а по закінченні була невеличка вечірка, на якій усі змогли поспілкуватися, а гості ще й більше дізнатися про українське буття, що і було головною метою свята та і одним з головних завдань організацій-організаторів.

На фото (зліва-направо): виконавці - пан Кувата Морійосі, пані Накамура Хацуе, пані Оксана Степанюк, голова "Товариства японсько-українських культурних зв'язків" пан Оно.

«Краяни» Організація української спільноти у Японії, що ставить за свою мету розширення меж спілкування українців, що проживають у Японії, допомога українцям у адаптації до умов життя у Японії, популяризація української культури серед японців, популяризація японської культури серед українців, розвиток двосторонніх відносин між українськими та японськими громадянами на недержавному рівні.

«Товариство японсько-українських культурних зв'язків» Минуло вже п'ятнадцять років з дня здобуття Україною незалежності, але для багатьох японців Україна все ще і часткою Росії без своєї мови і культури. «Товариство японсько-українських культурних зв'язків» ставить за мету дати краще уявлення японцям про Україну та українцям про Японію через культурний обмін. Так в 2006 році було здійснено близько 60 культурних заходів у різних куточках Японії. Також була організована ініціатива «Кімоно банк», за якою старі, але коштовні кімоно японських родин надавалися українцям за 100 єн, а отримані кошти перераховувалися у фонд Чорнобилю.

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Майже третина українців вже нічого від Януковича не чекає

(Українська правда)—Близько половини опитаних українців вважають головною загрозою для України на 2007 рік економічний занепад.

Про це свідчать результати соцопитування, проведеного Київським міжнародним інститутом соціології.

А серед змін, які відбулися за період діяльності нового Кабінету міністрів, можна вказати на те, що у 56 % респондентів погіршилася упевненість у завтрашньому дні.

Як засвідчили опитування, 21% респондентів бояться розділу країни, 20% - концентрації влади у окремої політичної сили.

Наразі лише 8% опитаних очікують від уряду Віктора Януковича об'єднання країни, тоді як ще у вересні їх було 19%.

10% опитаних вважають, що економічне становище в Україні покращилося і 34% - погіршилося.

Найпоширеніше занепокоєння громадян викликає зростання цін і тарифів. 82% респондентів упевнені, що ситуація у цій сфері погіршилася.

У 2006 році очікування від уряду Януковича щодо підвищення рівня добробуту працівників бюджетної сфери погіршилися майже увічі. Так, у грудні 2006 року 12% опитаних очікували від уряду підвищення зарплат працівників бюджетної сфери (одразу після призначення Януковича ці очікування становили 22%), 25% - підвищення пенсій, і 8% - ефективної боротьби з корупцією.

Натомість 28% респондентів вже не мають жодних очікувань від уряду.

За останній місяць в усіх регіонах України покращилося ставлення до приватизації землі. Загалом 40% респондентів висловилися за передачу землі у приватну власність, 36% – проти.

Порівняно з груднем 2006 року, у січні 2007 року селян, які підтримують приватизацію землі, побільшало на третину (до 44%).

На півдні кількість прихильників приватизації землі зросла у півтора рази. При цьому серед жителів сіл південного регіону України приватизацію землі підтримують майже у півтора рази більше людей, ніж серед міських жителів цього регіону.

Серед усіх регіонів України найбільш негативне ставлення до приватизації землі спостерігається на сході країни.

Опитування проводилось 20-23 січня та 1-5 грудня 2006 року. Усього було опитано 2041 та 2014 респондентів відповідно віком від 18 років, що мешкають на всій території України. Максимальна похибка не перевищує 2,3%.

An Adventure in Politics as the Art of the Possible

By Albert Hohol

Dr. Manoly Lupul, a professor at the University of Alberta, conceived the notion of a Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies at that university. He put together a small number of like-minded people, spending a great deal of time drafting a proposal, then asking for a meeting with me. We met at Lupul's home where he was accompanied by Peter Savaryn (later chancellor of the university). The proposal was sound, the enthusiasm unbounded. I asked why they would not go through the approval channels of the university. Lupul said he tested the idea with some people in the approval system and his prognosis for success was zero. I told them I would take a close look at it and be back to them but it would take a while.

I sent a copy of the proposal to senior officials in the department for review and recommendations. The report back was negative but not surprising. It pointed out the obvious; new university programs can be initiated only within the university; they must go through internal approval entities with the General Faculties Council finally recommending to the Board of Governors. The officials' prediction for success was zero. Herein lay my winter (and all seasons) of discontent with bureaucrats. They will provide a minister with chapter and verse as to why we, the government, cannot do a certain thing and indeed, they must do that. It was when I asked what we need to change or put in place to be able to respond to legitimate needs of people and usually drew a blank that I felt the bureaucracy did the easier half of its work. In this particular case, the deputy and other officials were, carefully and silently, opposed. Clearly, I was on my own. I studied the report analytically, keeping in mind this was in fact a university issue but one it would not address.

I found a novel, creative, futuristic yet entirely workable proposal. Then questions to myself: should university autonomy take precedence over an idea predictably of much value to society? Should even a lesser thing like internal university procedures get in the way of superior thinking, hopes and the will to make a difference? I decided, not so. I let Messrs Lupul and Savaryn know in confidence I accepted the report and when ready, would seek cabinet's approval. Not long after, they met with me again and in impeccably professional demeanor, urged me to get to cabinet as soon as possible as they wanted to get started. I said I would do that but the timing had to be right else I could lose it. What I did not tell them was that I had not yet spoken to every one of my cabinet colleagues about the proposal. I could not afford to go in not knowing whether I'd win or lose, and there's no draw.

After I met and got support from about two-thirds of the ministers, I met with Premier Lougheed who said he would back the proposal and approve it but encouraged me to strive for majority ministerial support. I felt I had it but in fairness to the colleagues I had not yet met and wishing to play safe, I met with the remainder, then scheduled the matter for the next cabinet meeting. I presented the report and had the assent of the whole cabinet. The University of Alberta rapidly moved the report through channels with a fast-track approach and approved it. What set aside the practice that all new programs are initiated only by universities was a sizeable operational grant by the government for the university for each of the first five years.

Dr. Albert Hohol

The Institute is a world class source for all things Ukrainian; writing, research, teaching and travel are of the caliber you expect from an institution such as the University of Alberta. Score a big one for a couple of classy guys; Dr. Lupul became the first executive director; some years later Savaryn became the university's chancellor and received an honourary doctorate for significant contribution to the Ukrainian and larger community (and to the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta).

Editor's Note: This article is an excerpt from the memoirs of Dr. Albert Hohol, former Minister of Advanced Education and is reprinted here with permission. Dr. Hohol helped convince cabinet colleagues to commit annual funding that provided the nascent scholarly body with a financial base. At that time, it was the largest annual allotment of public funds in support of Ukrainian scholarship outside Ukraine.

Yushchenko seeks fast NATO accession

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine will seek to accelerate accession to the European Union and NATO despite recent setbacks, President Viktor Yushchenko said Feb. 10.

The comment challenges position of the pro-Russian coalition government that seeks to slow down the accession suggesting that Ukrainian parties will be split on the issue.

"We will consistently be integrating into the European institutions and will do it as soon as possible," Yushchenko told reporters on the sidelines of an international security conference in Munich.

Yushchenko's comments challenge the position of Russia, which has been aggressively opposing the expansion of NATO, viewed by Moscow as a military threat

The developments suggest that Ukraine will continue to face pressure from Russia over natural gas prices, the leverage that Russia has been increasingly using to try to change Ukraine's foreign policy

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych has been seeking to postpone Ukraine's accession to NATO apparently in a bid to win better natural gas prices in talks with Russia

"We had almost lost our economy due to the foreign policy that didn't make any sense," Yanukovych said in an interview with Russian newspaper Nashe Vremya. "Our steel sector and chemical industry depend on prices for Russian natural gas.

The Yanukovych-led coalition put pressure on pro-Western Foreign Minister Boris Tarasiuk over the past two months forcing him to step down. Tarasiuk, a Yushchenko ally, was an architect of the pro-Western foreign policy.

"We have to define our policy over NATO by the entire nation," Yanukovych said. "We have to hold a referendum and see whether people need that or not. I saw statistics showing that the NATO accession is backed by 13-15% of the people, which is too little for changing the foreign policy course."

Yushchenko's plans to accelerate the accession to NATO are likely to trigger a wave of pressure from the pro-Russian government on Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko, the only remaining pro-Western figure in the government

Hrytsenko, who works hard to improve cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, has received an official warning from Yanukovych over a recent spat with Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. The warning is seen by analysts as a signal that the coalition may soon try to fire the minister.

"The government is a team that must work in a single spirit," Boris Kolesnikov, a senior member of the pro-government Regions Party, said. "All ministers are members of the team that must stick to its decisions."

Asked whether the coalition will seek to replace Hrytsenko, Kolesnikov said: "I believe that Hrytsenko wants to dismiss himself."

Hetmanczuk new Executive Director of UCSS (Toronto)

(UCSS Toronto/UkrNews)—The Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services (Toronto) Inc. has announced the appointment of Victor Hetmanczuk as Executive Director effective March 15.

Hetmanczuk brings a wealth of knowledge about not-for-profit organizations by virtue of his recent six years as Director Operations — Daily Bread Food Bank (Toronto) and over 30 years of volunteer work in the Ukrainian Canadian community.

He was instrumental in renovating the permanent Daily Bread facility to handle 1,000,000 lbs of food per month; introducing new programs/partnerships and reducing food purchase costs.

He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

He has a high profile in the Ukrainian Canadian community with his volunteer board work both nationally and locally.

Hetmanczuk is currently President of the Foundation for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada; Board member of the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre in Etobicoke and Vice President of the St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto

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† Бл. п. Розалія Буцяк

10 листопада, 1906 р. – 28 січня 2007 р.

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 28–го січня 2007 року відійшла у вічність переживши 100 років бл. п. Розалія Буцяк.

Розалія народилася 10–го листопада 1906 року в селі Пробіжна, Гусятинського Повіту в родині Яківа і Павліни Вілецьких. В родині було трьох братів і три сестри. Вона залишила у глибокому смутку свою молодшу сестру Теофілю Шимків з Едмонтону, п'ять племінниць і одного племінника та багато дальшої родини.

В 1926 році Розалія одружилася з Петром Буцяком в Україні. Її чоловік в 1928 році імігрував до Канади, а в 1934 році Розалія виїжджає до Канади щоб долучити до свого чоловіка. Разом вони починають своє нове життя в новій країні. Вони фармували в околицях Вох й Бон Акорд.

В 1950 році вони переїхали до Едмонтону і стали парафіянами а згодом членами катедри св. Йосафата. Вони щедро жертвували на потреби парафії. Розалія вступила до Ліги Українських Католицьких Жінок при парафії, де вона віддавала багато своєї праці як доброволець коли небуть була така потреба.

Петро й Розалія були подружжям через 60 років, коли її чоловік Петро в 1986 році відійшов у вічність.

Розалія продовжувала своє життя в доброзичливості, чесності і жертвенности, підтримуючи розмаїті українські організації.

Ми були вдячні Богові що 10 листопада 2006 року, ще змогли відсвяткувати 100 років з дня народження тітки Розалії і що вона прожила довге та щасливе життя.

Похорон відбувся 3–го лютого 2007 року в катедрі св. Йосафата. Отець парох Михайло Планчак відслужив похоронні відправи і відтак тіло покійної похоронено на цвинтарі Св. Михаїла в Едмонтоні.

Родина покійної Розалії складає сердечну подяку всім парафіянам, Лізі Українських Католицьких Жінок, родині і знайомим за участь в похоронних відправах.

Вічна Її пам'ять.

Родина Розалії Буцяк

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ФОТО — С. КЛОСЕВИЧ

Посол України в Канаді Ігор Осташ серед пластунів і пластунок Пластової станиці Оттави.

Пластова Станиця в Оттаві відзначила День Незалежности і Соборности

Юлія Войчишин

«Від нині зливаються в одно віками відділені одна від другої частини України – Галичина, Буковина, Закарпаття і Придніпрянська Україна в одну Велику Україну...»
22 січня 1919 року

Як ніколи перед цим, у молодій державі – Україні, слова цього Акту Злуки, не набирали такої важливости як тепер, коли стає під загрозою сама її цілісність і неподільність. Довгі віки Україна була в неволі і після проголошення державности в 1918 році і втрати її в 1921 році, її територію ще не раз ділили між собою наші історичні сусіди. Тому, сучасні події в Україні турбують нас і відзначуючи січневі роковини Пласт в Оттаві сконцентрував свою увагу на аспект єднання.

З думкою про єдиний український народ, наша Пластова станиця вже довгі роки відбуває відзначення Листопадового зриву в українській католицькій церкві, а Січневі роковини в українській православній церкві. Отже, в неділю 28–го січня 2007 року, в пластових одностроях з нашими курінними прапорами /101–го Мішаного куреня УПЮ ім. Володимира Івасюка і 1–го куреня УПС ім. О. і С. Тисовських/ ми відбули Службу Божу з о. Ігором Охрімчуком, в наміренні українського народу в Українському православному соборі Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці. Співав хор під диригентурою Ірини Смішної. Пластуни відспівали пластове «Отче наш».

Пластовий апель для відзначення Січневих роковин з участю громади проведено в залі Собору з такою програмою:

Бунчужний пл. роз. Лукаш Мончак провів збірку та звіт Станичній пл. сен. дов. Христі Лук'яненко, яка доручила йому перевести програму дня. На наказ бунчужного станиця привітала пластовим «Скоб» присутнього Посла України д–ра Ігора Осташа і він запросив Достойного гостя до участи. Після молитви «Царю небесний» та пластового гимну «Цвіт України і краса» пластовий наказ відчитав пл. сен. Микола Біланюк, в якому він пояснив ціль відзначення роковин Державности і Соборности України бо хоч країна не втримала незалежности, все ж таки «відроджений український дух і прагнення до самостійности не загинули», сказав він.

З черги зв'язковий 101–го Куреня ім. Володимира Івасюка пл. сен. кер. Олег Кандиба звільнив пл. вірлицю Любу Решітник з юнацтва, а ст. пл. Люда Мончак зняла з неї червоно–чорну юнацьку хустку і зв'язала їй старшо–пластунську зелену. Бунчужний зарядив на її честь «Тричі скоб!».

Святочну гутірку до пластунів і української громади виголосив пл. сен. кер. Борис Сірський. Він наголосив історичну вартість Четвертого Універсалу 22–го січня 1918 року, найвищу жертву Крутянських героїв 29–го січня 1918 року а особливо об'єднання Української Народної Республіки і Західньої Української Народної Республіки в одну державу. При кінці він пригадав усім про вже історичний факт «Живого ланцюга» створеного на заклик Народного Руху України 21–го січня 1990 року між Києвом і Львовом в якому взяли участь понад 400 тисяч людей. Він звернувся до громади підтримати пластунів і відтворити «живий ланцюг» з вірою, що Україна є і залишиться неподільною. На тлі пісні «Від синього Дону до сивих Карпат, одна нероздільна родина» між двома знаками «Київ» і «Львів» створився довгий ланцюг–півколо, у якому взяли учать усі присутні – пластуни, громада з своїм священиком, а навіть Посол України.

Вірш Євгена Кримeнка «Живий ланцюг», написаний під враженням цієї події, виголосили юнаки: Борис і Олекса Біланюк, Боян і Остап Войчишин та Іван Герасим. Одна з п'яти строф звучить так:

Живий ланцюг від Києва до Львова...
Крізь села й городи, поля і ріки
Сягнув за море, в гамір міст великих,
Звеном нас в'яже єдности й любови.

Зв'язковий Олег Кандиба у супроводі гітари і групи пластунів заспівав пісню на власні слова і музику під назвою «Марш молодих патріотів». Остання строфа цієї пісні звучить так:

Узялись за руки вірні сестри і брати,
Розвіялась чорная хмара,
Споконвічна мрія наша сяє на ввесь світ
Могутня вкраїнська держава.

На кінець бунчужний попросив Його Екселенцію Ігора Осташа до привіту. Достойний гість сказав, що він сам був учасником першого «Живого ланцюга» і окреслив настрої пов'язані з тими подіями. Також наголосив важливість зв'зків на всіх рівнях, а в нашому випадку – будуючих зв'язки між діяспорою й Україною. В додатку було висвітлено відео–звернення Президента України Віктора Ющенка у якому він привітав український народ з Днем Соборности і наголосив що: «Єдність – це наше глибоке розуміння один одного як невід'ємної частини великого Українського народу».

Піснею «Україна» Тараса Петриненка закінчено частину програми «Живий ланцюг», а після збірки пластуни закінчили пластовий апель гимном Закарпатських пластунів і молитвою «Отче наш».

За добре підібрану зворушливу програму належить признання Станичній пл. сен. Христі Лук'яненко і її команді. Хай їм щастить і надалі!

Тимошенко звинувачує партію Януковича у провокації з Лазаренком

(Українська правда)—Лідер БЮТ Юлія Тимошенко вважає, що владна команда влаштувала провокацію проти неї перед візитом до США.

Так вона прокоментувала 20 лютого у Хмельницькому інформацію, яка з'явилася на деяких інтернет-сайтах про те, що начебто суд США визнав її співучасницею у справі екс-прем'єр-міністра Павла Лазаренка.

"Ця інформація не відповідає дійсності. Це чиста провокація правлячої сьогодні партії", - зазначила Тимошенко.

"Такі провокації часто готуються перед поїздками, щоб політики потім виправдовувалися", - додала вона.

Як відомо, лідер БЮТ планує наприкінці лютого відвідати США з триденним візитом.

Прізвище Тимошенко неодноразово згадувалося у контексті процесу над екс-прем'єром України Павлом Лазаренком у США.

Водночас досі жодних звинувачень на адресу Тимошенко від США не висувалося.

Archipenko: The Canadian Connection

By Denis Hlynka, PhD
and Robert Klymasz, PhD
Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies,
University of Manitoba

On Jan. 29 a story by Val Ross appeared in the *Globe and Mail* titled "When Ukrainian means Canadian: A modernist bust by a European artist has been deemed part of Canada's heritage".

The article, dealing with sculptor Alexander Archipenko, explains how a particular work, titled *Flat Torso* qualifies as a Canadian work due to its age and significance. The work is therefore to be treated as Canadian, and is therefore subject to keeping this object in Canada for Canadian museums. The argument is an interesting one, and well taken.

However, in making the argument, the article (and we assume therefore the Art Gallery of Ontario) makes two curious assumptions. The author writes:

"Archipenko was born in Kiev in 1887, lived in France and Germany, and died in New York in 1964. He never set foot in Canada."

This information is inaccurate. A major Archipenko retrospective was held in Winnipeg, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery from Jan. 14 to 31 1962. The show consisted of 46 Archipenko works. In addition, the event included a lecture given in person by Alexander Archipenko, at the Winnipeg Auditorium, Jan. 15, 1962. Apparently the archives of the Smithsonian in Washington DC contain both the text and an audio recording of this lecture.

The Ukrainian Canadian Winnipeg community was actively involved in the event, in particular Winnipeg's Alpha Omega Women's Alumni in cooperation with the Women's Committee of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

A programme booklet was produced which included a four page introduction by Ferdinand Eckhard, then director of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, as well as a three page excerpt from the book *Archipenko: Fifty Creative Years, 1908-1958*.

A second statement in the Val Ross *Globe and Mail* article quotes Michael Parke-Taylor of the Ontario Gallery of Art as saying "We'd been looking for an Archipenko piece for years — there are only three known in Canada,"

This is a harder statement to dispute. However, the collective faculty at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, can account for at least three pieces *and* two lithographs. One piece belongs to the Winnipeg Art Gallery (*The Boxers*), a second is in a private collection, while a third is in Toronto. Whether or not other works exist is unknown to us, although the programme booklet noted above lists 46 works and includes the statement "All items with few exceptions are for sale." Given the stature of the artist, it would seem unusual that so few works would have been sold during this Winnipeg exhibition.

Finally, perhaps Parke-Taylor was not extending his comments to lithographs, only to bronzes. However at least two lithographs do exist in Winnipeg. Both are titled *Form Vivant* and described only as "lithograph, ink on paper, date unknown."

While we applaud the Art Gallery of Ontario for being able to obtain an Archipenko for its collection, the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG) acquired its Archipenko almost half a century ago. In 1962 Winnipeg was still the third largest city in Canada, and the hub of Western Canada. The Winnipeg Art Gallery is the oldest civic gallery in Western Canada, founded in 1912.

Since the Val Ross article appeared in the Globe and Mail, the faculty members at the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies have been able to contact several of those involved in the Archipenko exhibit. Many Winnipeggers remember with fondness Archipenko's visit to Manitoba as a pivotal event in the history of Manitoba's art community.

UGCC honors hero of Communist era

(CWNews)—The Ukrainian Catholic Church has opened a special exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Archbishop Wolodymyr Sterniuk, a hero of the Ukrainian Catholic resistance to Soviet persecution.

Archbishop Sterniuk refused to join the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, despite threats from the country's Communist government, and was sentenced to serve a 5-year prison sentence at a work camp on the White Sea.

In 1991, with the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy liberated from decades of official repression, Sterniuk was appointed an auxiliary bishop of Lviv, but — in recognition of his years of underground leadership — given the personal title of archbishop. He died in 1997 at the age of 90.

The exhibition opened on Feb. 11 at the Museum of the History of Religion in Lviv. It followed a Feb. 8 symposium at the Ukrainian Catholic University on Archbishop Sterniuk and the years of repression leading up to the legal re-emergence of the Ukrainian Catholic Church after the fall of the Communist regime. After his release he was ordained a bishop in 1964, and led the underground Byzantine Catholic Church in Ukraine for years.

Moscow group wants Ecumenical Patriarch declared persona non grata

(CWNews.com)—An Orthodox group in Ukraine loyal to the Moscow patriarchate has asked the country's government to make Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople a persona non grata in their country, and extend the same designation to Orthodox prelates affiliated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The request made by the Union of Orthodox Citizens of Ukraine (UCCA) is the latest move in a fierce contest for leadership of the Orthodox believers in the country. The group accused the Ecumenical Patriarchate of "stirring up interdenominational hostility" in their country by recognizing the growing Kyiv Patriarchate — an Orthodox group that split from Moscow after Ukraine achieved independence.

The UCCA request came at a time when Petro Yushchenko, brother of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, was visiting Constantinople to meet with Patriarch Bartholomew. The Yushchenko government has sought to ease tensions among Orthodox leaders, without accepting the claim of the Moscow patriarchate to exercise sole jurisdiction over the Orthodox churches of Ukraine.

Foreign policy President's constitutional jurisdiction, Ostash says

(UkrNews)—Foreign policy is clearly the prerogative of the President of Ukraine, according to the Constitution of Ukraine, says Ukraine's new Ambassador to Canada.

"The President has confirmed the irrevocability and consistency of Ukraine's foreign policy course, and it is the duty of the Government, the Foreign Ministry and Diplomatic Missions of Ukraine abroad, one of which I have the honour to lead, to implement the course charted by the President and established in Ukrainian laws," said Ihor Ostash in an address delivered at the University of Ottawa, Feb. 7

Ostash stressed that Ukraine's foreign policy priorities are established by law and include European and Euro-Atlantic integration with the goal of attaining a full-fledged membership in NATO and the EU, accession to the World Trade Organization, which Ukraine expects to achieve in 2007.

"Our main priorities also include the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries, first and foremost our neighboring states, such as Russia and Poland, as well as strategic partners of our country, such as Canada and the United States. Ukraine pursues the goal of promoting European values in its region, in particular through active participation in the resolution of frozen conflicts."

Another priority is the economic expansion of Ukrainian goods and services both on the conventional and the new markets in the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

"And, of course, one of the most important aspects of Ukraine's foreign policy is protecting Ukrainian citizens abroad and safeguarding the rights of the Ukrainian Diaspora , which will remain a constant priority of the foreign policy of Ukraine and the sphere of particular attention of Ukrainian diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

"We are working successfully with many countries on legalizing the status of Ukrainian migrant workers, signing agreements on temporary employment, promoting the opening of Ukrainian schools, television stations and newspapers abroad," he added.

Ostash noted that Canada occupies a special place in the heart of every Ukrainian.

"Our countries share close historical and family ties, as well as common values and beliefs, such as freedom, democracy, rule of law," he said.

He added that Ukraine appreciates Canada's consistent support in such crucial areas as dealing with the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, providing financial assistance in excess of C$66 million, as well as playing a leading role in the G-8 addressing this issue and technical assistance to Ukraine through the Canadian International Development Agency and the Military Training Assistance Program.

"Recently, Canada's outspoken position and the largest observer mission have been critical during the days of the Orange Revolution. Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine His Excellency Andrew Robinson organized his colleagues from the Western missions on monitoring the Presidential elections in 2004. Canada sent the largest observer mission, including 500 members and 500 volunteers, headed by former Prime-Minister the Right Honourable John Turner," he added.

"Among the leaders of the observer mission were the present Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group (which, by the way, includes over 150 Members of Parliament) Peter Goldring, M.P., and Vice Chair Borys Wrzesnewskyj.

"There are many examples of partnership ties between Ukraine and Canada. They include peacekeeping, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly within the framework of the Global Partnership, destruction and prohibition of land mines under the Ottawa convention, protection of human rights and advocating the ideals of freedom and democracy.

"I am confident that Ukraine and Canada will remain true partners on the international arena, and close and friendly relations between our countries will only strengthen with time, and I see this as my primary task in my capacity as Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada," Ostash said.

Rada postpones vote over foreign minister

(Ukrainian Journal)—The pro-Russian government coalition on Feb. 8 postponed for at least a week debate and the vote on approving pro-Western diplomat Volodymyr Ohryzko as Ukraine's foreign minister, lawmakers said.

The coalition also stepped up pressure on Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko, another pro-Western figure in the government, amid signs that a motion may be prepared to dismiss him.

The development is the latest sign that the confrontation between pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko, who backs Ohryzko and Hrytsenko, and the pro-Russian government continue to deteriorate.

The government, led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, has been persistently seeking to change Ukraine's foreign policy by slowing down accession to NATO.

Russia, Ukraine's largest trade partner and the only gas supplier, has been threatening with economic sanctions in the event that Ukraine joins NATO, which is seen by Moscow as a military threat.

Yanukovych and his ally Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz argued Feb. 8 that lawmakers need more time to hold consultations over whether to support Ohryzko.

Many pro-Russian coalition lawmakers, including Communists, Socialists and the Regions Party, have been quietly refusing to back Ohryzko, who is seen as a keen supporter of the pro-Western foreign policy.

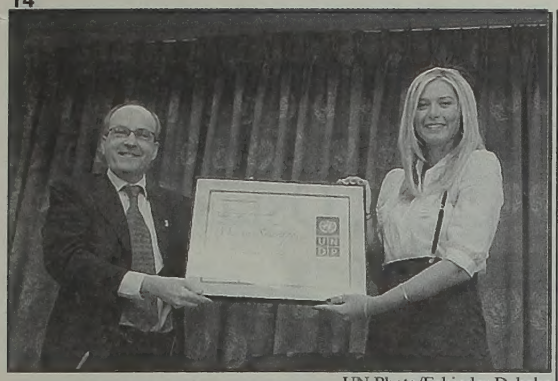
At the same time, the coalition stepped up pressure on Hrytsenko, an advocate of Ukraine's speedy accession to NATO. In a statement announced in Parliament by the Socialist Party, a member of the coalition, Hrytsenko has been given a warning for his recent spat with Moroz over the future of a military academy in Odesa.

The statement comes a day after a similar warning has been made by Yanukovych at a government meeting. Such warnings have previously led to dismissals of several Yushchenko loyalists, including former Foreign Minister Boris Tarasiuk, from the government.

Meanwhile, the coalition voted Feb. 8 to approve Viktor Slauta, a Yanukovych loyalist, as the deputy prime minister for agriculture.

Other appointments included vote to approve Mykola Tomenko, a senior member of the Tymoshenko bloc, as a deputy speaker of Parliament. The post has been earlier reserved for an opposition group.

Parliament also voted to back Nina Karpachova, a member of the Regions Party group in Parliament, as a human rights representative.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Ad Melkert (left), Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), announces the appointment of tennis star Maria Sharapova, as Goodwill Ambassador to UNDP and her donation to the UNDP Chornobyl projects, at a press conference, at UN Headquarters in New York.

Sharapova donates $100,000 for Chornobyl projects

(RFE/RL)—The world's top-ranked female tennis player, Maria Sharapova of Russia, has donated US$100,000 to aid recovery from the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear disaster.

Sharapova made the announcement at a news conference at United Nations headquarters in New York, Feb. 14, where she was also made a UN goodwill ambassador.

Sharapova, whose family lived not far from Chornobyl at the time of the accident, said she hoped the money would help rebuild schools, hospitals, and sports facilities near the site of the accident.

The explosion at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine in April 1986 was the world's worst civilian nuclear accident.

Its long-term health effects are still unclear, but the UN has predicted it will cause up to 9,000 extra deaths from cancer in the most affected areas.

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БУДЬМО в КОНТАКТІ!

Bucyk honoured for 50 years service with the Bruins

Sports

Johnny Bucyk in his playing days.

Ukrainian Canadian Johnny (Chief) Bucyk was honoured for 50 years of service with the Boston Bruins during a pre-game ceremony at TD Banknorth Garden when the Bruins played the Edmonton Oilers, Feb. 13, reported the Canadian and Associated. Press services.

"He was a key member of a team that really established this franchise in the league and he's remained on as a dedicated, loyal person to the organization," says Harry Sinden, who coached Bucyk during the Bruins' championship seasons.

Bucyk helped the Bruins win the Stanley Cup in 1970 and in 1972. He was such a good left-winger that the team retired his No. 9 upon his retirement and he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1981.

"I've thought of myself as a spear carrier, not a star, really," he once said. "I'm not a glamour guy and I've just gone along getting what I could out of every game.

"It has added up."

Bucyk was nicknamed the "Chief" by Bronco Horvath, who mistakenly thought he was of aboriginal origin when both played for the Western Hockey League's Edmonton Flyers in 1954-55.

Bucyk was presented with an SVU at the ceremony during which wore a full Native headdress, presented to him in 1981 by the Bruins' Stan Jonathan, who actually is of Native origin.

Born in Edmonton, Bucyk grew up poor and didn't get his own pair of skates until he was 13.

He broke into the NHL during the 1955-56 season with the Detroit Red Wings, who traded him to Boston in 1957 for goaltender Terry Sawchuk (also a Ukrainian Canadian). He would team with Horvath and Vic Stasiuk, who'd been his junior teammates with the Edmonton Oil Kings, and the line was dubbed the Uke Line, though Horvath was actually of Croatian origin. But the Bruins only made the Original Six playoffs twice in his first 10 years with the team.

The team's fortunes changed with the arrival of Bobby Orr and then Phil Esposito. During the team's most successful years, Bucyk played on the left side of a dynamite power-play unit that included Orr, Esposito, John McKenzie and Fred Stanfield.

Bucyk scored at least 20 goals in 16 seasons, and he became the oldest player to score 50 goals in a season when he got 51 in 1970-71 at age 35.

Bucyk's record for most points by a left-winger, 1,369, stood from the time he quit playing in 1978 until Luc Robitaille overtook it just before retiring in 2006. He remains the team's career goal-scoring leader with 545.

"Along with Frank Mahovlich and Bobby Hull, he was one of the great left-wingers of his time," says Sinden.

Sinden will never forget one thing in particular about road trips to Edmonton.

"Johnny would visit his mother and she'd give him kobasa she'd made that was really strong," Sinden recalls. "He'd open it up on the plane and we'd have a feast but, boy, did it smell."

Bucyk won the Lady Byng Trophy for sportsmanship in 1971 and 1974 and won the Lester Patrick Trophy for contributions to hockey in the United States in 1977. He appeared in seven all-star games and was Bruins captain for five years.

Bucyk continues to travel with the team.

"He's always been an asset to the coaches," says Sinden. "He's a sounding board as well as the guy who takes care of all the details on the road."

After retiring as a player Bucyk served the team as public relations officer, assistant coach, radio commentator, alumni services director, and currently serves as road services co-ordinator. He's 71.

On top of all of that, Bucyk is regarded as one of the Boston region's most generous sports figures with regards to charitable work and has raised millions of dollars for worthwhile causes including the Heart Foundation and the Children's Glaucoma Foundation. He has a grandson with juvenile glaucoma.

He says his greatest memory was carrying Stanley Cup around the Boston Garden ice on May 10, 1970 (two days before his 35th birthday), after Bobby Orr's overtime goal against St. Louis gave the Bruins their first NHL championship since 1941.

Nancy takes advantage with away tie in Donetsk

(UEFA)—Despite being pegged back by a late Darijo Srna equaliser for ten-man FC Shakhtar Donetsk, AS Nancy-Lorraine hold a marginal advantage in their UEFA Cup Round of 32 tie thanks to Marc-Antoine Fortune's away goal in Ukraine, Feb. 14.

The French visitors began the match stronger and enjoyed the better of the first 45 minutes, with Gaston Curbelo and Fortune both spurning chances before Youssouf Hadji collected Sébastien Puygrenier's quick throw in the sixth minute and unleashed a fine curling shot which Shakhtar goalkeeper Bohdan Shust clawed away. The Moroccan international had another glimpse of goal on the half-hour following clever play by Michaël Chrétien, but this time fired wide.

Fortune — who joined Nancy from Dutch side FC Utrecht last month – then missed the target before Shakhtar striker Ciprian Marica also passed up the opportunity to claim a half-time lead. The second period began in a flurry of activity as Curbelo and Shakhtar's Matuzalem both blazed wide, so the opening goal did not arrive until nine minutes from time. Another cute throw-in, this time from David Sauget, again caught out the home defence and Fortune made no mistake, beating Shust from ten metres.

Nancy celebrations were short-lived, however, as the Ukrainian title-holders pulled level within three minutes thanks to Andriy Vorobey's pinpoint cross which allowed Srna to nod in from close range. The hosts were unable to find a winning goal in the closing six minutes — although Marica went close with a late header — and their night ended on a sour note as Anatoliy Tymoschuk was dismissed in the final minute for a second bookable offence. The midfielder will be suspended for the second leg.

Massive outflow of cash may hurt hryvnia

Business

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's apparently ongoing massive outflow of foreign currency may accelerate inflation and hurt stability of the national currency, the hryvnia, President Viktor Yushchenko warned Feb. 16.

Ukraine's domestic and foreign investors have been apparently persistently channeling money out of the country for the past five years, but the process has accelerated in early 2005.

"The outflow of capital was $12.9 billion between 2004 and September 2006," Yushchenko said at the National Security and Defense Council meeting citing the country's balance of payment statistics. "This is one of the main threats to the national security."

The figure shows that Ukraine has failed to significantly improve its investment climate to a point when most of domestic investors would seek to re-invest their profits in domestic projects. The money withdrawn also suggests that investors have been seeking to avoid taxation.

Creating a liberal economy that would be darling to investors throughout the world was one of Yushchenko's key commitments since winning dramatic presidential election in December 2004.

Some of Yushchenko's reforms, such as transparent selling of Ukraine's biggest steel mill, Kryvorizhstal, to Mittal Steel for about $5 billion in October 2005, did boost foreign direct investments in Ukraine.

The foreign direct investment, which also included a number of acquisitions in the banking sector, hit $13.2 billion between 2004 and September 2006 showing that interest in the Ukrainian economy has been growing.

But, the scale of the reported outflow of foreign cash suggests that the country's investment image has been suffering.

Meanwhile, the accelerating outflow of cash comes at a bad time as Ukraine has been running a major foreign trade deficit over the past 1.5 years, mostly due to skyrocketing increase in natural gas prices.

Ukraine reported $6.7 billion in foreign trade deficit in 2006, Yushchenko told the meeting. Ukraine reported $671 million foreign trade surplus in 2005, according to the National Bank of Ukraine.

The expanding trade deficit, coupled with an outflow of foreign currency, increases pressure on the national currency, the hryvnia, to lose value and may undermine financial stability.

"We may get a very strong challenge to the internal stability of [consumer] prices and [value of] money," Yushchenko said.

Yushchenko said the government must work hard to improve the investment climate, but also to employ special teams that would scrutinize the outflow transactions.

"We have to ask… why the comfortable investment climate hasn't been formed, and why the shadow economy is flourishing?" Yushchenko said.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, who also attended the meeting, refused to issue any comments on the subject.

Yushchenko and Yanukovych are in a bitter dispute since September 2006 over powers enjoyed by both offices as both have appealed to the Constitutional Court to settle the dispute.

IUD, Gazmetall in talks over steel giant

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's Industrial Union of Donbas is in talks with Gazmetall, a Russian iron ore producer, to create the largest producer of steel in the former Soviet Union, a newspaper reported Feb. 19.

The merger between IUD and Gazmetall would create a company capable of producing up to 15 million metric tons of steel annually with capitalization worth up to US$20 billion, industry analysts said.

Gazmetall and IUD have been holding merger talks for more than a month, Maksim Basov, the general manager at Gazmetall, said.

"Conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to shareholders within the next few months," Basov told Kommersant daily.

Shares in the Alchevsk Steel Mill, IUD's key steel asset, rose more than 12% within hours of trading at PFTS, the Ukrainian stock market, on Monday following the reports of the merger talks with Gazmetall.

The transaction would be the first massive cross-border merger of steel and mining assets between Russia and Ukraine and would create the No. 1 producer of steel in the former Soviet Union.

Analysts praised the possible deal as a strategic fit for both companies, as Gazmetal has excessive capacity of iron ore production, while IUD has been recently facing shortage of such raw material.

"The [to-be-created] company will be balanced out in terms of the raw material," Alexander Morozov, an analyst at UBS, said. "Gazmetal has a surplus of [iron ore], while IUD has a shortage."

IUD, which owns steelmaking assets in Ukraine, Poland and Hungary, is 50-50 owned by Serhiy Taruta and Vitaliy Hayduk.

Hayduk is currently holding the post of the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, a body that advises President Viktor Yushchenko on strategic issues.

Gazmetall, which produces 40 million metric tons/year of iron ore, or up to 40% of Russia's overall output, is 50% owned by Alisher Usmanov, a Russian businessman linked with the Kremlin. Usmanov also owns Kommersant newspaper.

Usmanov has been persistently seeking to expand in Ukraine over the past 12 months. He held talks with Rinat Akhmetov, the wealthiest Ukrainian businessman, seeking to merge assets with Metinvest, Ukraine's largest privately held mining and steel group. The talks failed, however, as Metinvest had enough deposits of iron ore to support its steel operation.

Meanwhile, IUD has been recently going through some difficulties after two Ukrainian suppliers of iron ore had refused to sell the raw material to the company.

Smart Group and Privat Group, which own two major iron ore producers, have put pressure on IUD earlier this year by increasing prices. Eventually, this forced IUD to begin imports of iron ore from Brazil, while at the same time to start merger talks with Gazmetall.

Smart Group has previously often acted as a partner of Gazmetall in some of their joint Ukrainian projects.

Hewlett-Packard boosts Ukrainian sales

(Interfax) —Hewlett-Packard increased sales in Ukraine 40% in 2006, the company said in a Feb. 19 statement, citing Serhiy Kadulin, head of HP's subdivision in Ukraine.

HP has a complex to assemble computers in Kyiv and it produced and sold more than 15,000 desktop computers last year. Government institutions bought 54% of them, corporations bought 26%, small and mid-sized business acquired 14% and retail sale accounted for 6%.

The company is planning to start exporting personal computers to CIS countries.

"The current production site can produce up to 250 computers a day. If necessary, its capacity could be doubled," the statement says.

Hewlett-Packard opened its personal computer production line in Ukraine in October 2005.

Nadra Bank mulls Eurobond issue

(Ukrainian Journal)—Nadra Bank is considering issuing Eurobonds worth at least $150 million in 2007 and to secure assets through placing securities worth no less than $100 million, Nadra Bank President Ihor Hylenko said Feb. 10.

"We have a rather aggressive target for foreign operations and... rather serious tools to be used — Eurobonds, syndicated loans, and securitization," Hylenko told Interfax-Ukraine.

"The sum of the Eurobonds issue will depend on demand on the market. The minimum target for us is no less than $150 million. We are waiting for [the result of] our annual audit, and maybe in April we will place [Eurobonds]."

Ukraine, Turkmenistan vow to remain strategic partners

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko attended the inauguration ceremony of Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov as Turkmenistan's new president in Ashgabat on Feb. 14, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

According to Yushchenko's press service, during talks after the inauguration, the two leaders agreed that Turkmenistan will remain Ukraine's strategic gas provider. Ukraine is to import at least 55 billion cubic meters of gas from Central Asia in 2007, mostly from Turkmenistan, at a price of US$130 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Business Briefs

Robust growth

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's high economic growth figure of 9.3% on the year in January is probably explained by a low base in January 2006, according to a report by Alfa Bank. The leaders in GDP growth this year are the construction sector, processing industry and trade. In January 2006, the value added in the construction sector fell by 8.1%, in the processing industry by 4.6%, and in trade it grew only by 0.7%.

Ukraine seeks to borrow $4 bln

(Ukrainian Journal)—The Ukrainian government hopes to borrow more that $4 billion annually from international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to realize infrastructure projects. "We estimate that the annual credit portfolio from all these credit institutions will top $4 billion," First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mykola Azarov said Feb. 9.

Bank profits up 37.7%

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukrainian banks' reported a profit of UAH 600 million in January, which is 37.7% more than during the same period last year (UAH 435.6 million), the National Bank of Ukraine reported, Feb. 12. Compared with the previous period, bank incomes grew by 49%, to UAH 4 billion, while expenditures rose by 39.6%, to UAH 3.3 billion. In December, the banks saw UAH 400 million in profit.

Investors seek banking assets

(Ukrainian Journal)—Another 10 or 15 investors are currently studying the Ukrainian banking market in order to buy credit and financial institutions, according to Deputy Head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) Oleksandr Savchenko. "As to our assessment, around 10 or 15 foreign investors are currently studying the banking system of Ukraine, [with a view] to purchasing controlling stakes in commercial banks," Savchenko told the press on Feb. 13.

Itera mulls coalmine methane extraction

(Ukrainian Journal—The Itera Group can implement in Ukraine a project on the production of coalmine methane from coal beds, Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko said, Feb. 20. "Itera has brought a very interesting project. They have worked out it in the U.S. state of Illinois – the coalmine methane production project. This is a very topical issue for us," he said in an interview with the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia weekly.

European banks to invest in gas pipelines

(Ukrainian Journal)—Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Boyce says that European banks intend to invest EUR 500 million in the development of Ukraine's gas transport system in 2007. "We're working very fruitfully with the European Union in that direction… Today we've met with EU delegates: we'll receive almost EUR 500 million from European banks this year for the development of the gas transport system," he said Feb. 15 on 5th Channel.

Pryvatbank to boost regional network

(Ukrainian Journal)—Pryvatbank, Ukraine's largest bank, is to expand its regional network by 25% and increase the number of its cash machines by 15% in 2007, bank's board chairman Alexandra Dubiet says. "In 2007, the network will grow by 20-25%. The number of cash machines will also increase by about 15%," Dubiet said Feb. 15.

Smart Group to upgrade mill

(Ukrainian Journal)—Smart Group will invest about $1 billion in the upgrade of the Makiyivka Metals Plant (MMZ) in the Donetsk region in the next three to four years in order to boost production efficiency and product quality, MMZ's press service reported, Feb. 15. Ihor Smiyanenko, the CEO at MMZ, said the plans included building the company's own sintering plant and a blast furnace, modernizing the smelting shop and overhauling the entire energy supply system.

Stability needed

(Ukrainian Journal)—The hryvnia can become fully convertible only after the country's political and economical development course is stabilized, Oleksandr Savchenko, a deputy governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, said, Feb. 13. "Firstly, political stability and secondly, the trust of Ukrainians in their currency and the stability of the political and economical course are needed to introduce a really convertible currency for use in capital transactions," Savchenko said at a roundtable in Kyiv

Skoda car share up

(Ukrainian Journal)—The share of Skoda cars on the Ukrainian new car market in January was 6%, while in January 2006 it was 5%, and growth in January was 39.4% compared to January 2006, Eurocar reported. In January, Skoda sales in Ukraine grew by 71%, to 1,420 cars, which put Skoda in fourth place in terms of car sales, after ZAZ, and ahead of VAZ, Daewoo and Chevrolet.

117,000 Ukrainians victims of human trafficking

(RFE/RL)—A new reports says more people from Ukraine have been trafficked abroad for forced labor and prostitution than from any other former Communist country, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported Feb. 20.

In a report released on Feb. 19, the International Organization for Migration said approximately 117,000 Ukrainians have been forced into exploitative situations abroad since the 1991 Soviet breakup.

Ukrainian officials say low salaries and unemployment increase the vulnerability of the country's citizens to human trafficking and forced labor.

Distributors to profit on Ukrainian dubbing

By Vlad Lavrov, *Kyiv Post, Feb 14 2007*

Nearly a year since its first attempt to bring Ukrainian language into the nation's cinemas, the government has announced an agreement with most distributors that will introduce more imported films in the country's official state language.

In anticipation of more Ukrainian-language dubbing contracts, film distributors are already planning to invest in the expansion of their sound facilities.

A voluntary memorandum signed on Jan. 22 by the Culture Ministry, film distributors and cinema chains stipulates that by the end of 2007 at least half of the movies shown in the country will be dubbed or subtitled into Ukrainian.

Each movie released in Ukraine will have to have an equal number of Russian and Ukrainian copies.

By the same deadline, all children's movies will have to be in Ukrainian.

Seeing the market potential, Ukrainian and foreign companies are hurrying to capitalize on the expected demand for Ukrainian dubbing.

Polish native Bohdan Batruch, CEO and owner of B&H, an official distributor of United International Pictures, Paramount, Dreamworks, Walt Disney and other Hollywood majors, said the increased demand for Ukrainian-language dubbed movies in cinemas will bring down the cost of dubbing.

Batruch said his company currently has to use highly overpriced Ukrainian studios to record the voices of local actors, which then have to be sent to European studios for mixing with the soundtrack in the Dolby format.

But with more contracts for Ukrainian-language dubbing, he plans to launch his own sound-studio and thus cut such costs.

B&H plans to invest up to US$2 million into new dubbing facilities. Batruch expects the new facilities to decrease dubbing expenses by two thirds.

Batruch said that the dubbing of a single movie into Ukrainian could cost up to $60,000. He plans to open his new sound mixing facility, which will also accept orders from other distributors, in June.

Hanna Chmil, the head of Ukraine's State Cinematography Service, said the state also plans to get in on the new business opportunity, investing $2 million into modern copy making equipment that meet the standards of modern cinemas.

St. Petersburg-based Nevafilm, a company that possesses one of the largest dubbing studios in Russia and which started dubbing into Ukrainian last year, also plans to open its own recording facility in Kyiv. Nevafilm will keep its Dolby sound mixing facility in St. Petersburg, however.

Nevafilm development director Tatiana Gasevskaya said the move is more about new market potential than high prices charged by Ukrainian studios' services.

"We constantly have orders for Ukrainian dubbing," she said.

Gasevskaya added that it is still premature to say whether opening a full cycle facility in Ukraine would be economically viable option for Nevafilm.

"The Ukrainian government is well-known for changing its decisions on very short notice, so no one knows for how long the new quotas will be in place."

The new quotas will not affect Russian-made movies or so-called art-house movies, made by European, American or Asian independent film studios. Such movies are usually released in small numbers.

According to the Culture Ministry, distribution companies controlling up to 90 percent of Ukraine's market signed the recent memorandum.□

The government's last attempt to introduce quotas for the Ukrainian language in the film industry back in January 2006 failed. The decision was cancelled by a Kyiv court several months later.

The Law on Cinematography, passed in 1998, requires all films shown in Ukraine to be either 100 percent dubbed into the state language or edited with subtitling in Ukrainian. The law has been largely ignored by the market, however.

Chmil described the memorandum as a "compromise" between the state and the film industry. It will allow the latter to gradually switch over to expected full Ukrainian dubbing, she added.

Batruch, who also operates Ukraine's largest cinema chain, Kinopalats, boasting 14 venues, said the new memorandum simply reflects the real situation on the market. Movies in Ukrainian already gross more than the same titles with the Russian dubbing, he said.

The Ukrainian dubbing of "Deja Vue," one of the most recent titles distributed by B&H, grossed $245,000 nationwide, compared to box office draws of only $155,000 for the Russian-language version during the same timeframe, he added.

Batruch said that the difference is even more striking when it comes to children's movies. For example, he said, "Charlotte's Web" grossed $212,000 in Ukrainian and only $77,000 in Russian, despite having virtually the same number of copies released in Ukrainian and Russian.

"It is a myth that Ukrainians wouldn't want to watch a movie in Ukrainian," Batruch said, as the country's secondary and higher education systems are predominantly in Ukrainian. Soviet leaders pushed hard to establish Russian as the predominate language in Ukraine and other Soviet republics. It was the language used in education and other important venues. Usage of Ukrainian was rare in the country's capital Kyiv during Soviet days, for example. Many in the capital didn't even understand Ukrainian.

But now, "there is a new generation of moviegoers who would hardly notice any difference," Batruch added.

Georgia considers replacing Russian peacekeepers with Ukrainians

(Interfax-AVN)—The Georgian government is considering replacing Russian peacekeepers in the conflict zones in the breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia with Ukrainian contingents, Georgian Foreign Minister Gela Bezhuashvili told Georgia's television stations in Vienna on Feb. 13.

"We are discussing within what boundaries it can be done and a mandate of which organization they can receive as we consider options to replace Russian peacekeepers with Ukrainian [troops]," he said.

The Georgian authorities are prepared to insist at all levels, including within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, that it is necessary to "replace Russian peacekeepers with another force that will be more neutral, effective and result-oriented," the minister said.

Yushchenko wants minimum wage raised

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko on Feb. 19 submitted a draft bill to the Verkhovna Rada, proposing to increase the minimum monthly wage to 420 hryvnias (US$83) as of May and to 430 hryvnias ($85) as of August from the current 400 hryvnias, Ukrainian media reported.

The legislature came to a standstill at its morning sitting on Feb. 20, after opposition deputies demanded that Yushchenko's bill and another one, which imposes limits on utility-tariff hikes, be considered as urgent.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych said on Feb. 19 that the cabinet will consider increases in wages and pensions only after taking into account the economic results of the first quarter of 2007.